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F21S 48/328; B62J 17/02; B62J 6/02  
USPC ..... 362/516, 297  
See application file for complete search history.

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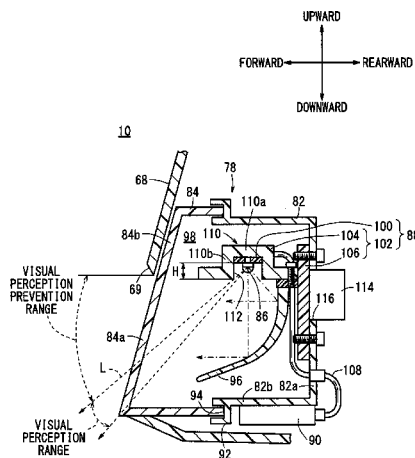
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A lighting device for a vehicle has a base member and a lens. A light emitting diode and a reflector are housed in a space formed by the base member and the lens. The light emitting diode is disposed at a predetermined position on a support member extending into the space. The support member is provided with a wall which is located in front of and near the light emitting diode and which is higher than the light emitting diode. In a front view, the wall hides the light emitting diode and blocks light exiting directly from the light emitting diode without propagating through the reflector.

**9 Claims, 19 Drawing Sheets**

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*B62J 17/02* (2013.01); *F21S 48/104*  
(2013.01);



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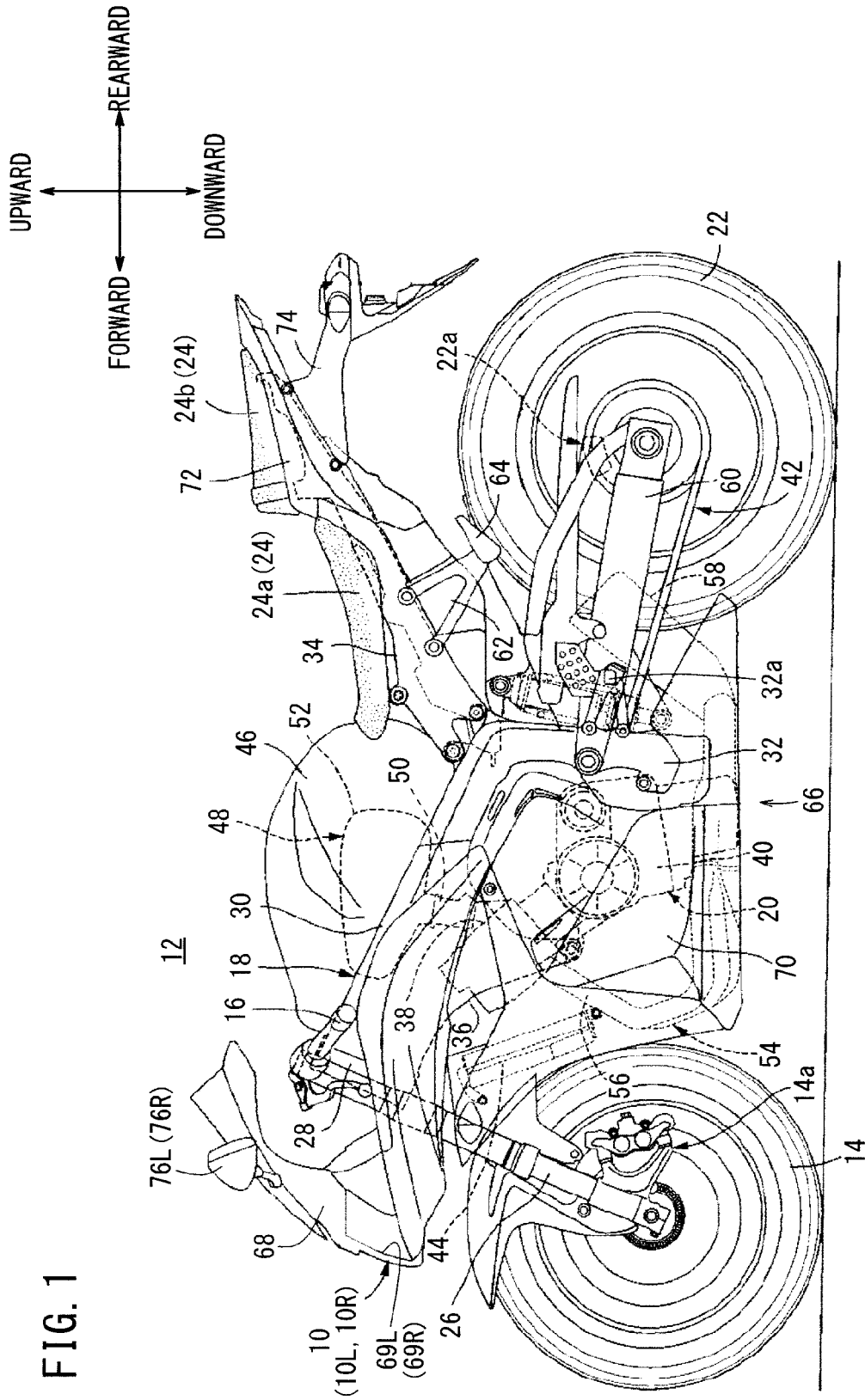


FIG. 2

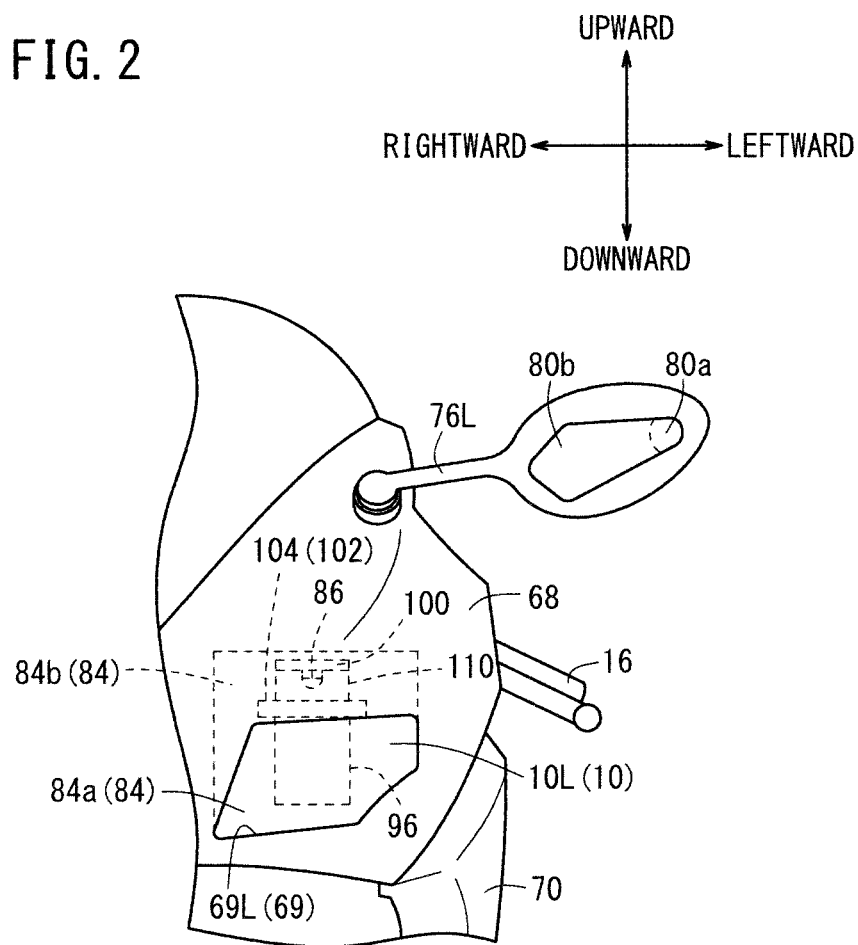


FIG. 3

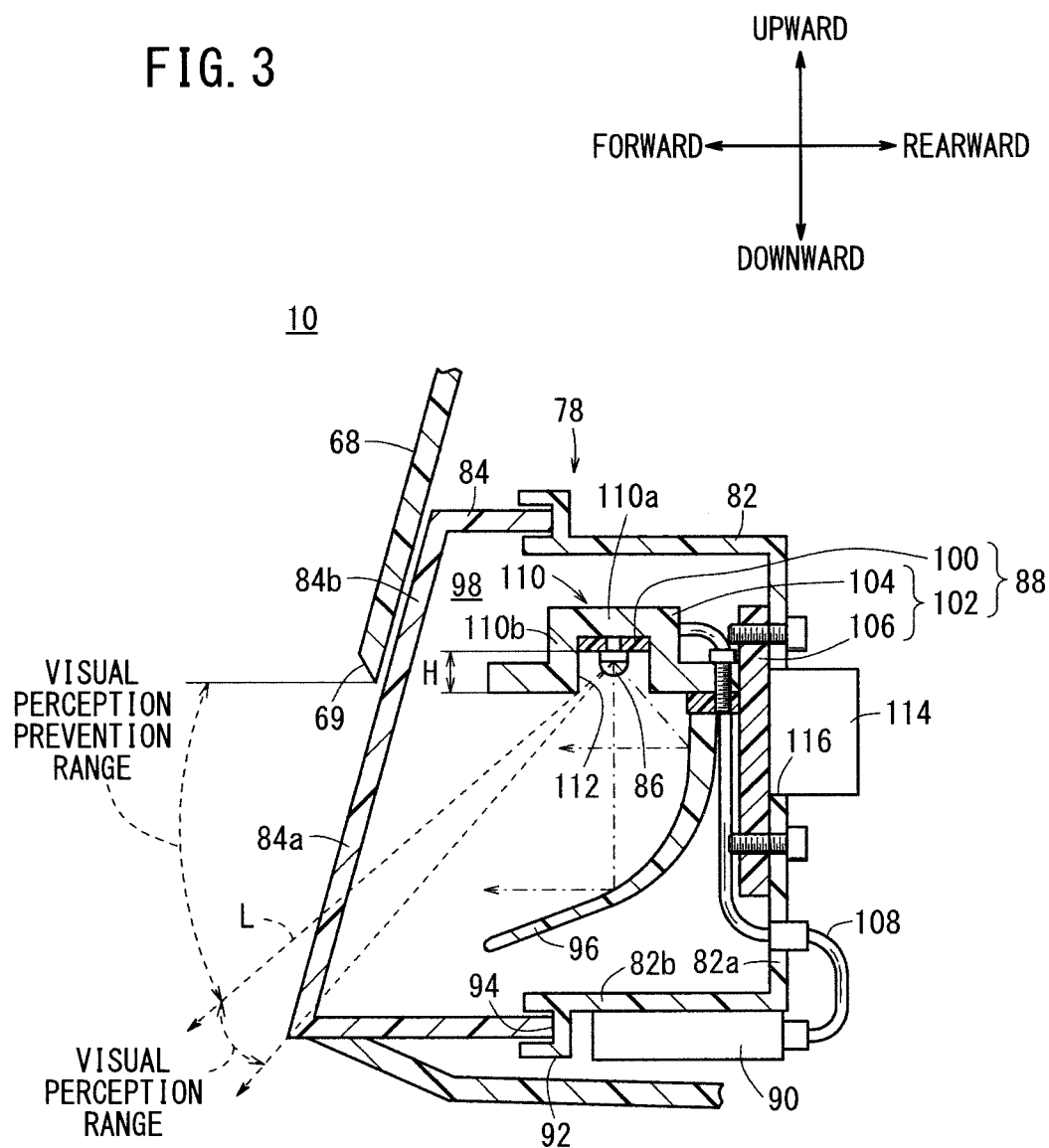


FIG. 4

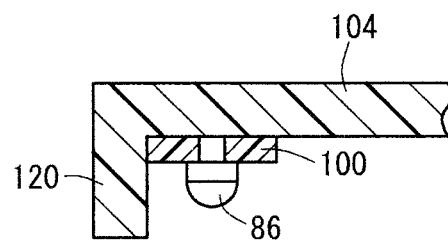


FIG. 5

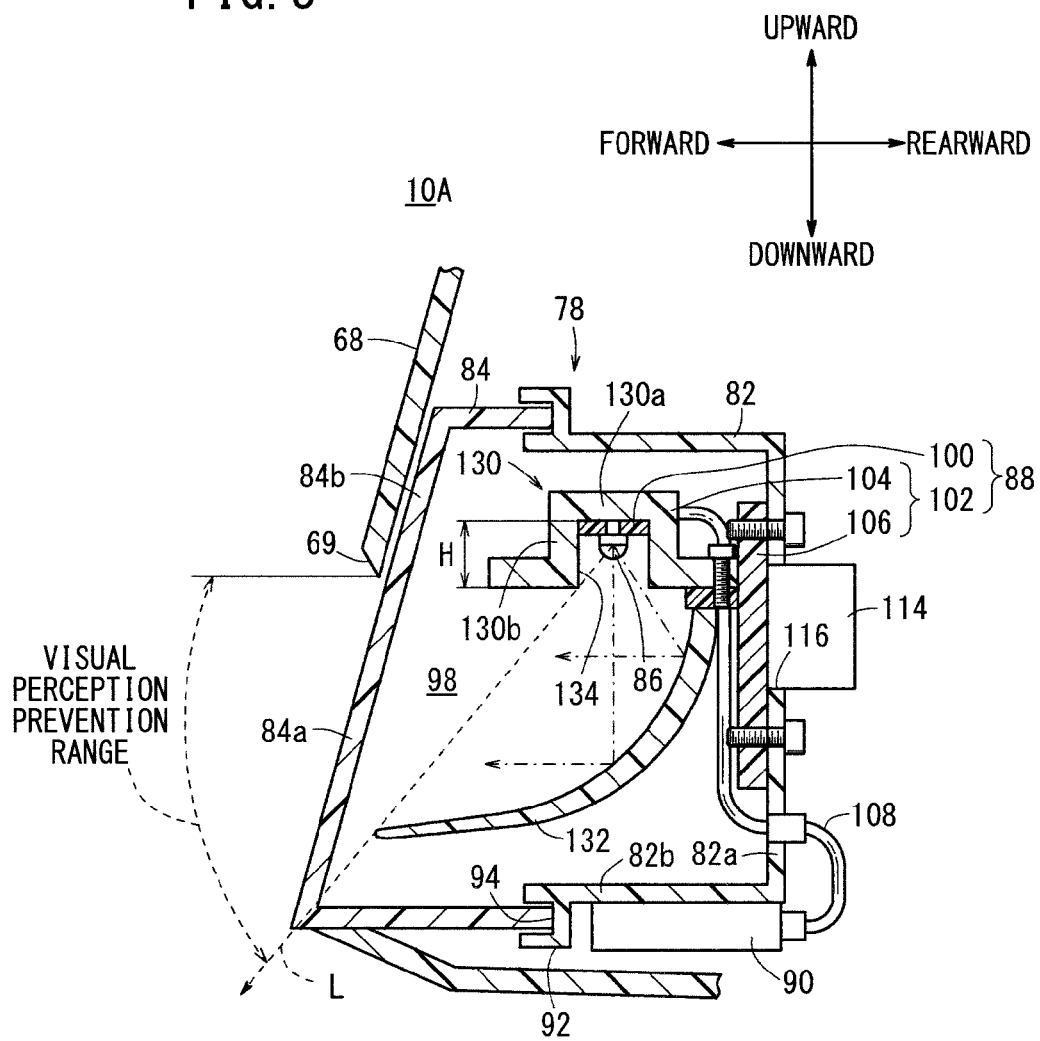


FIG. 6

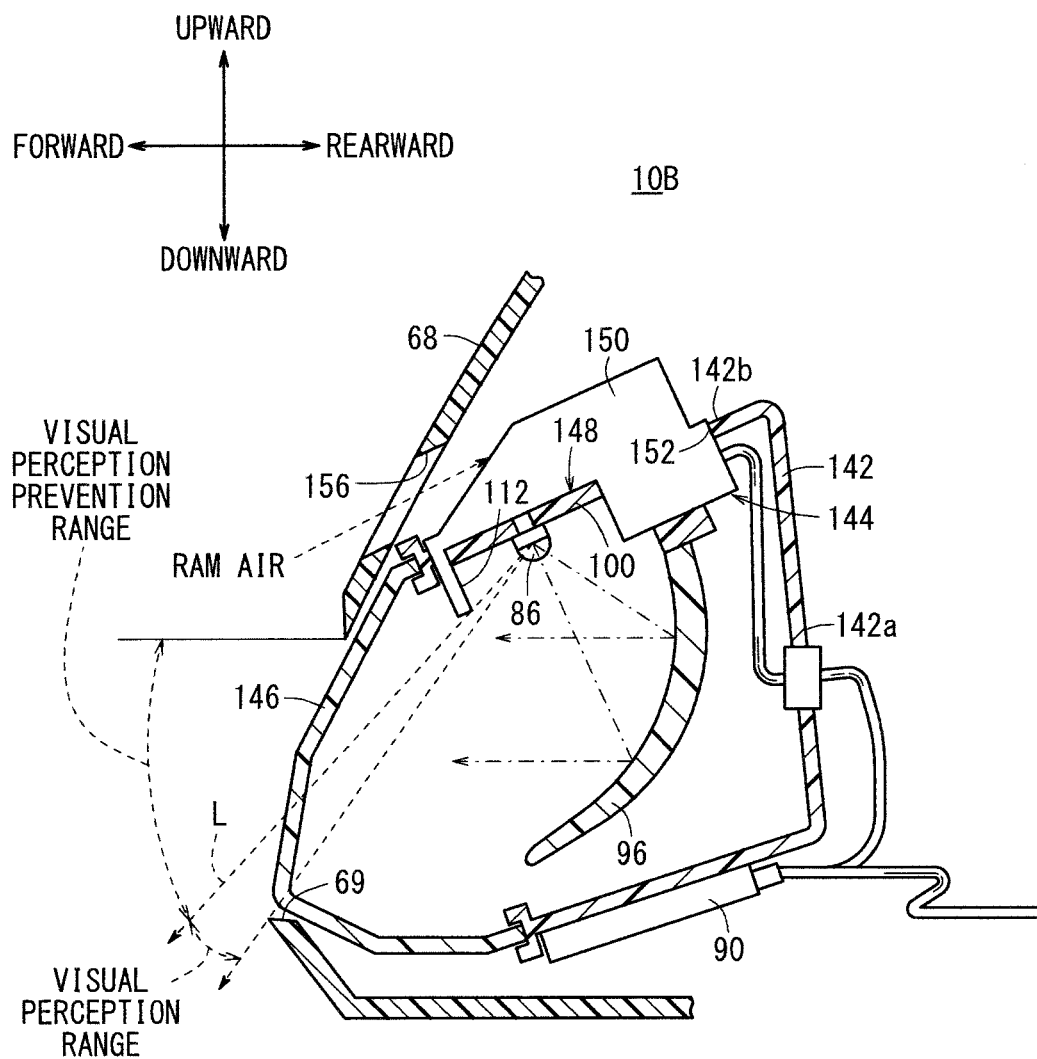


FIG. 7

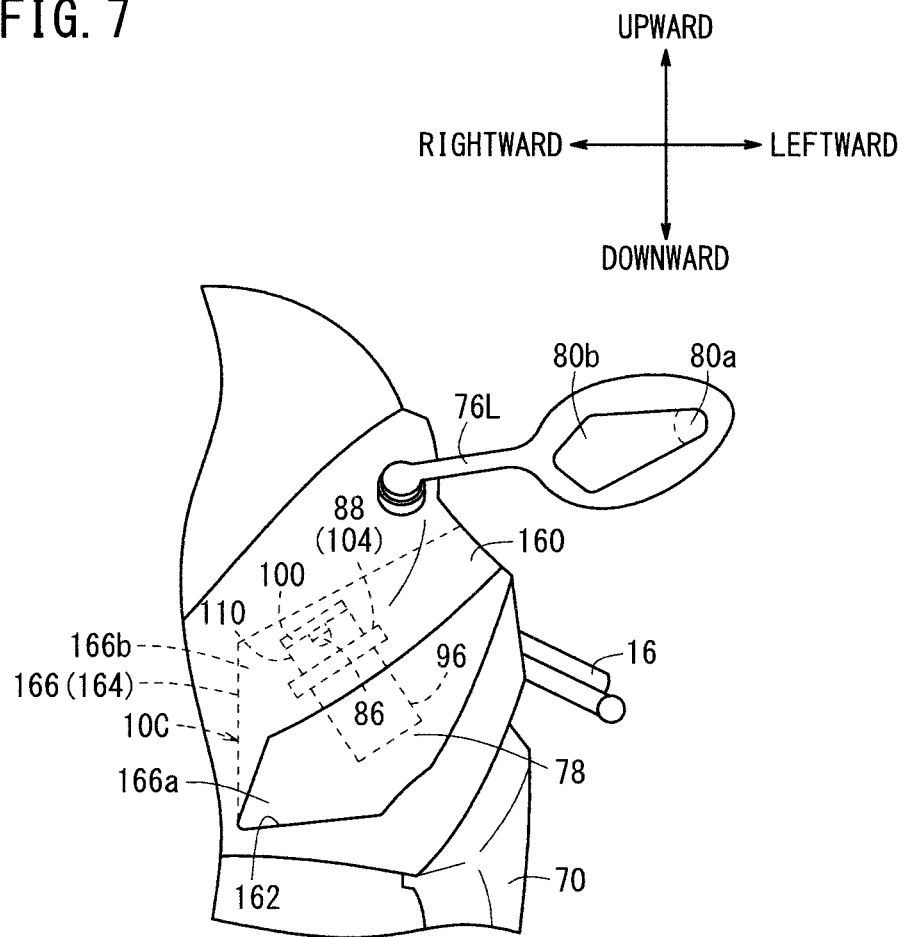


FIG. 8A

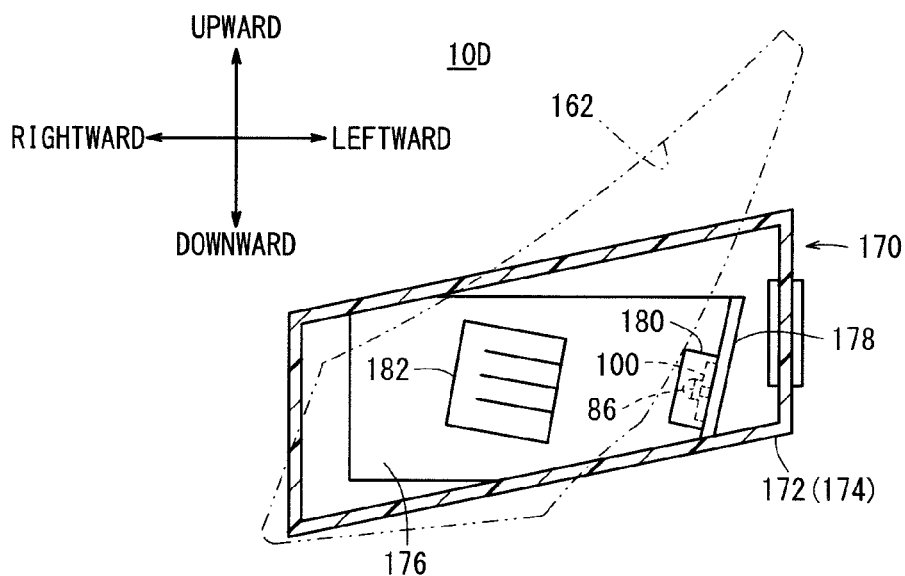


FIG. 8B

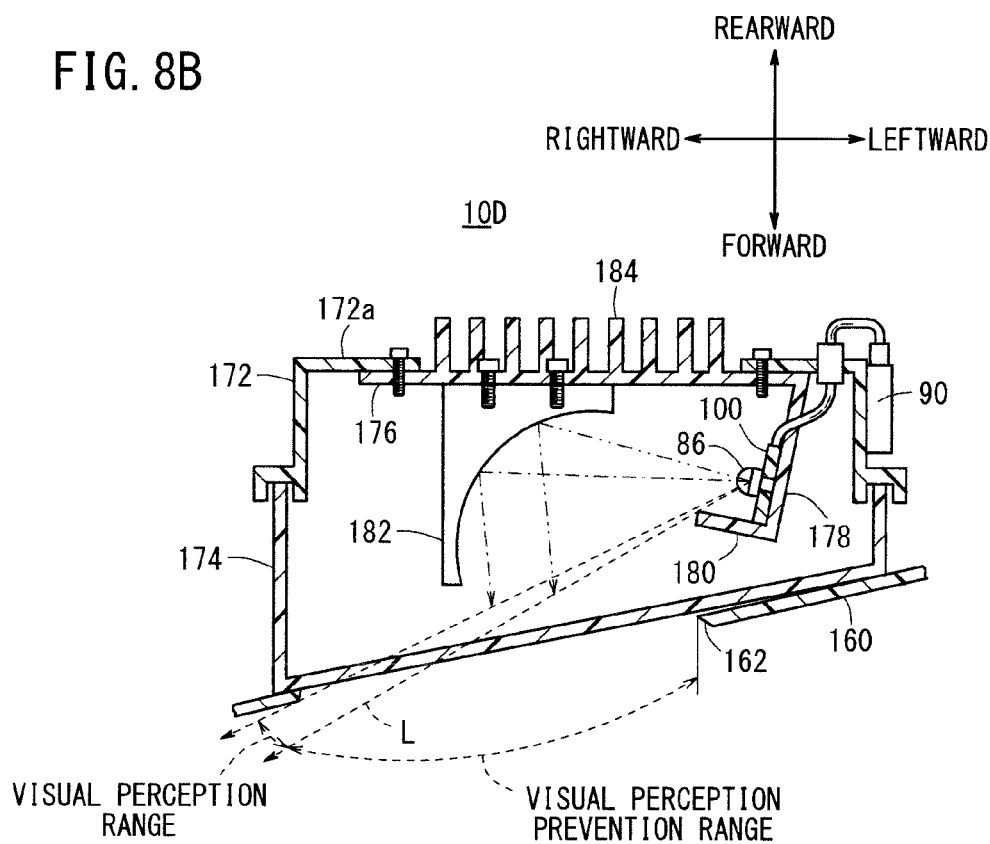


FIG. 9

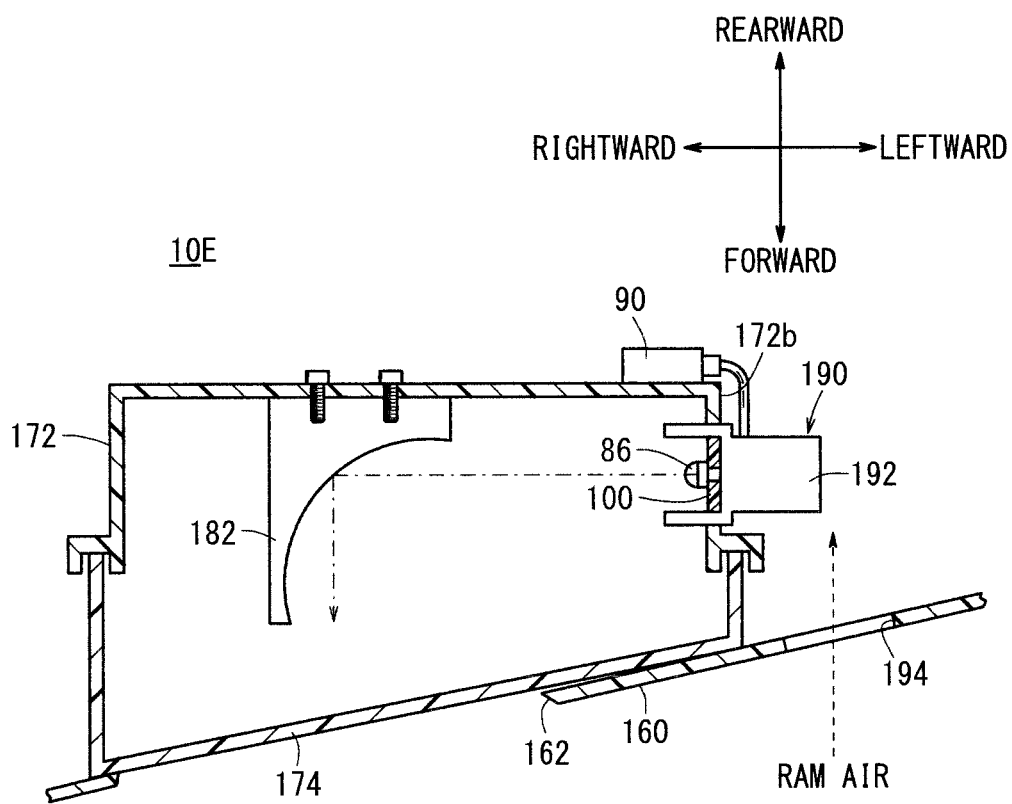




FIG. 11

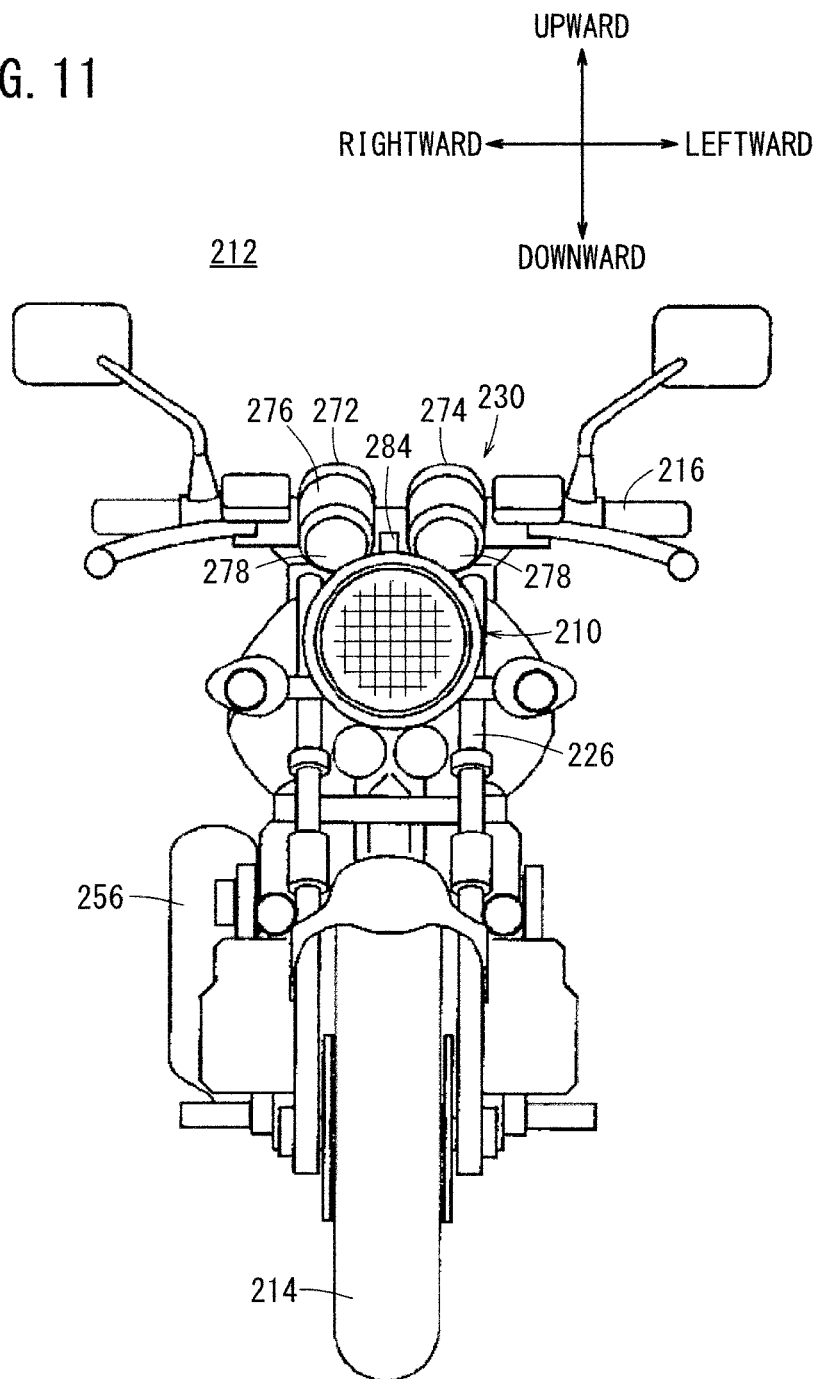




FIG. 13

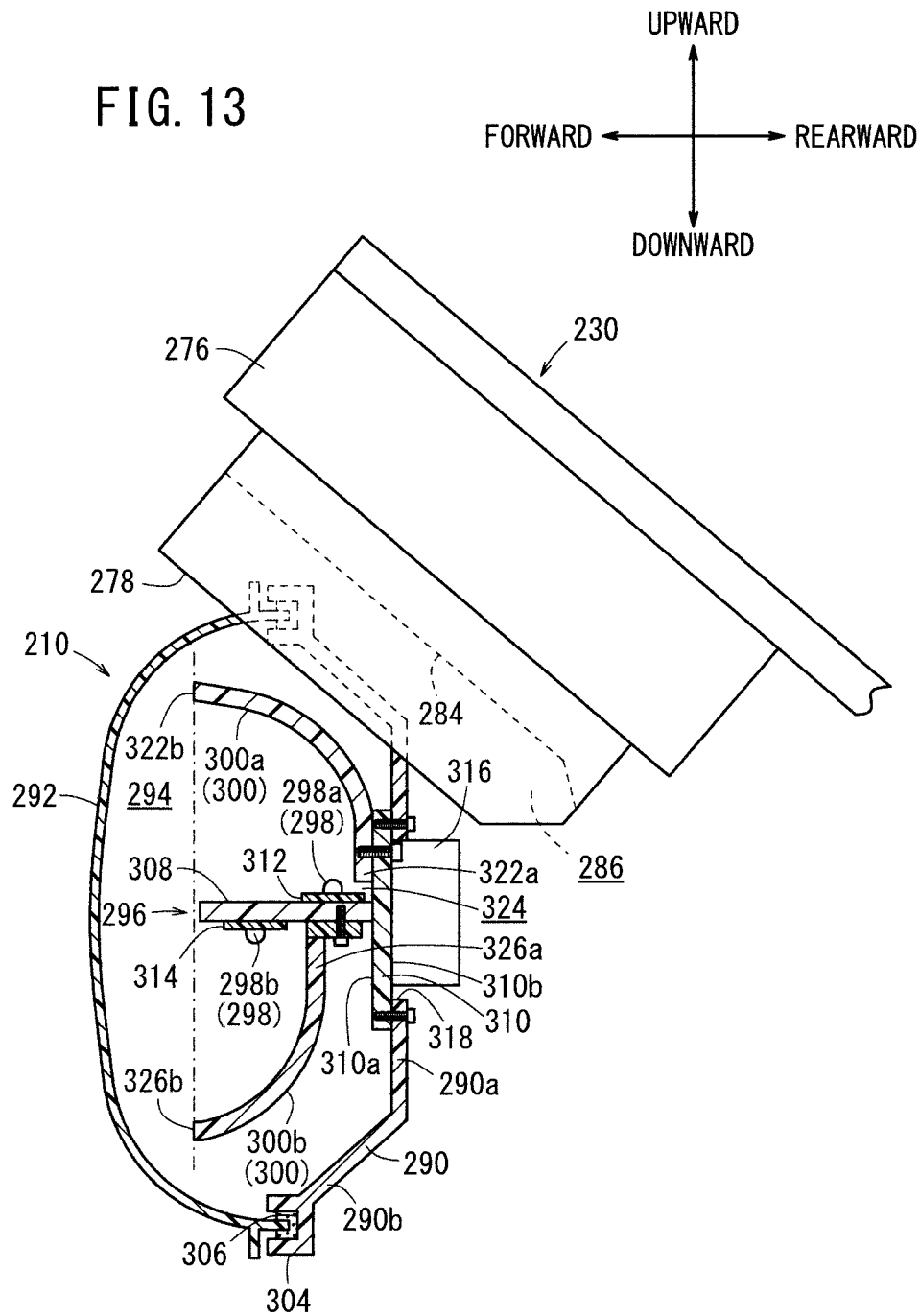
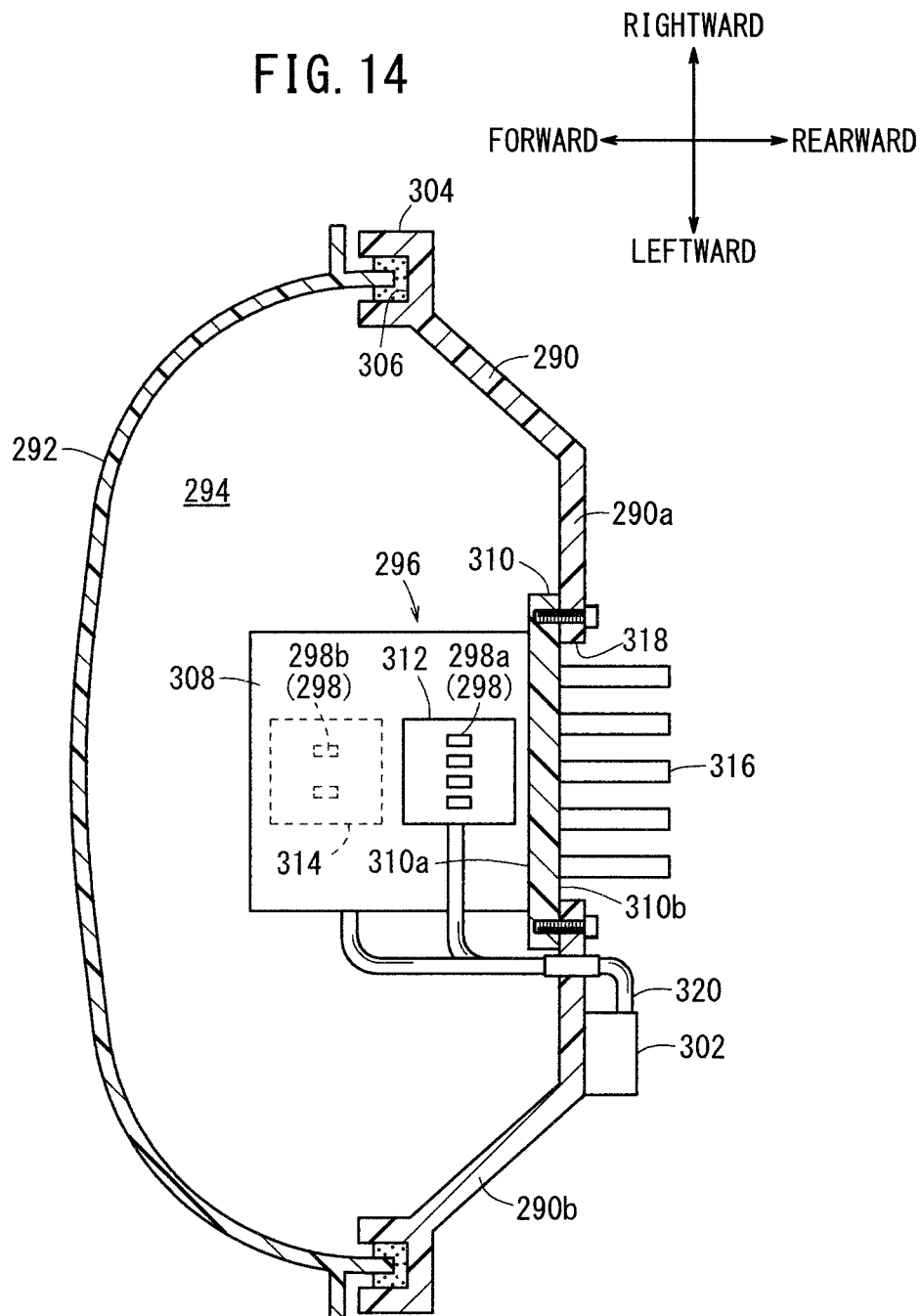


FIG. 14



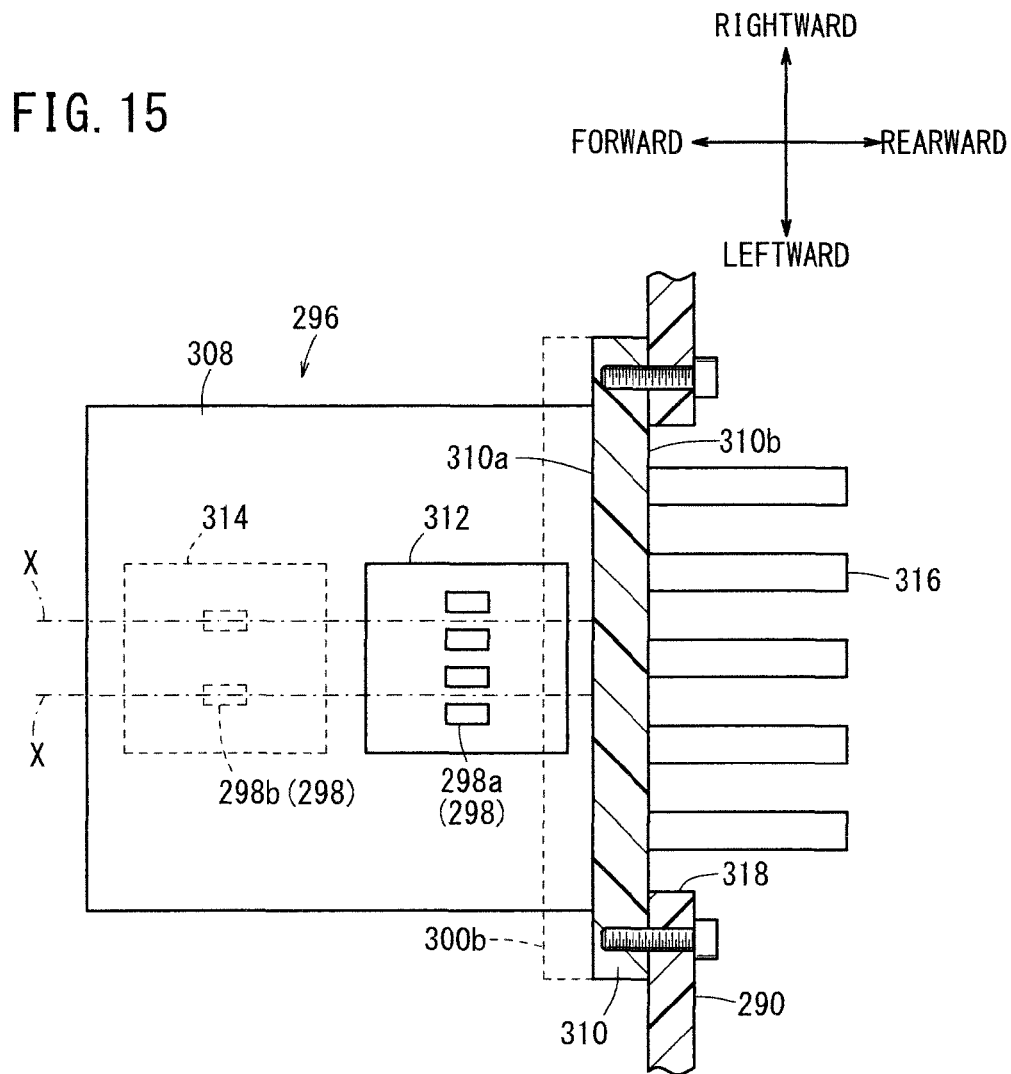


FIG. 16

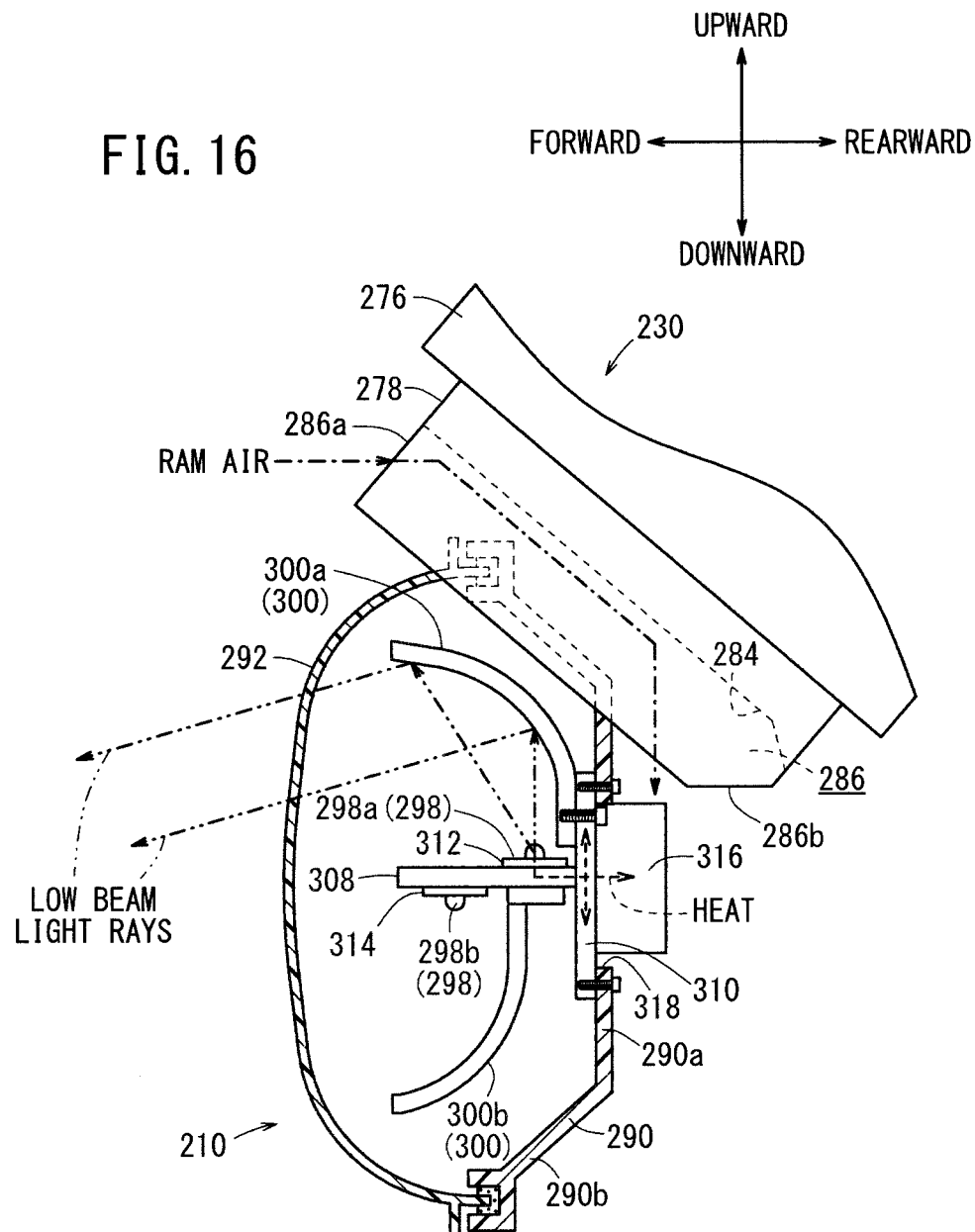


FIG. 17

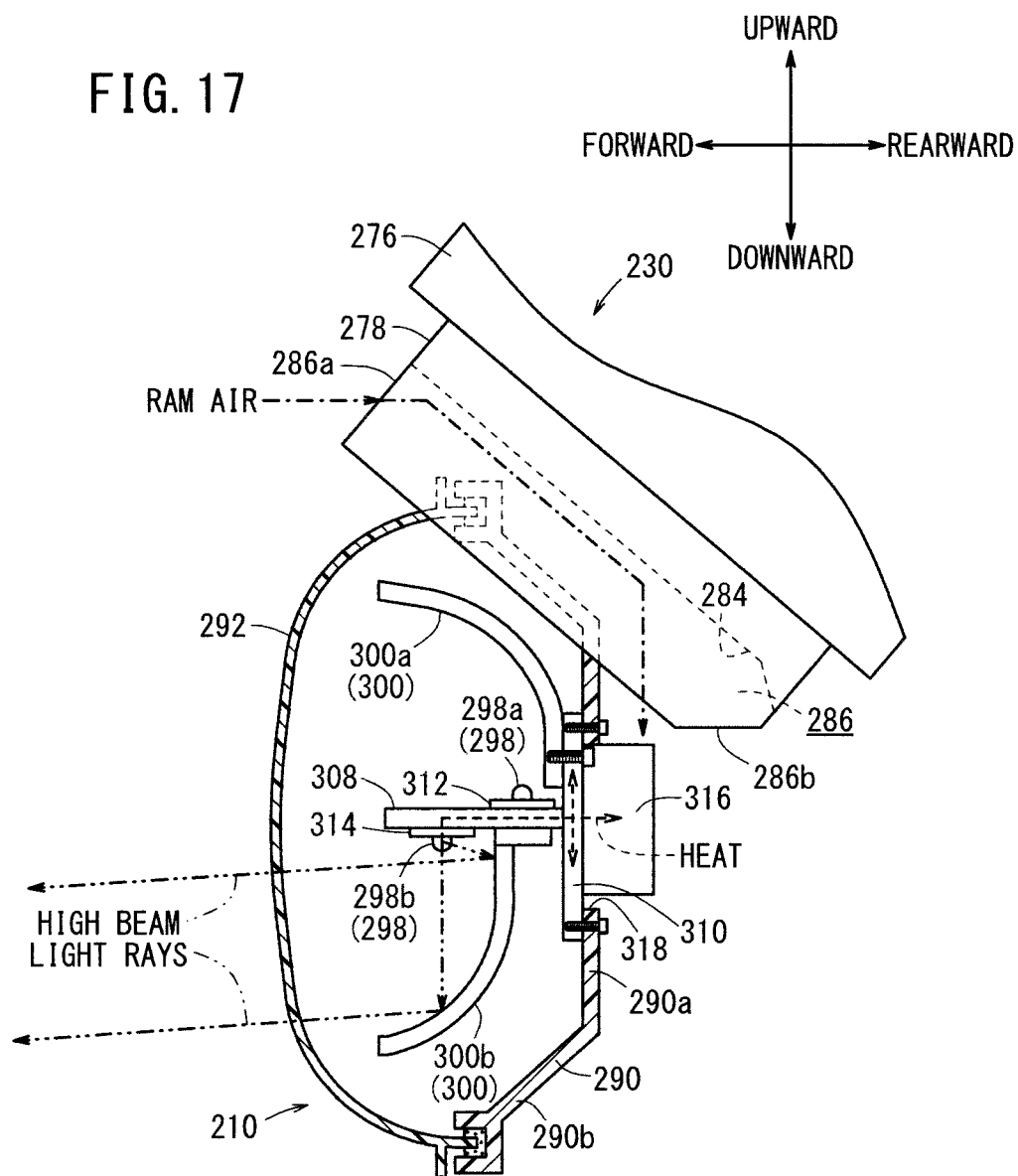


FIG. 18

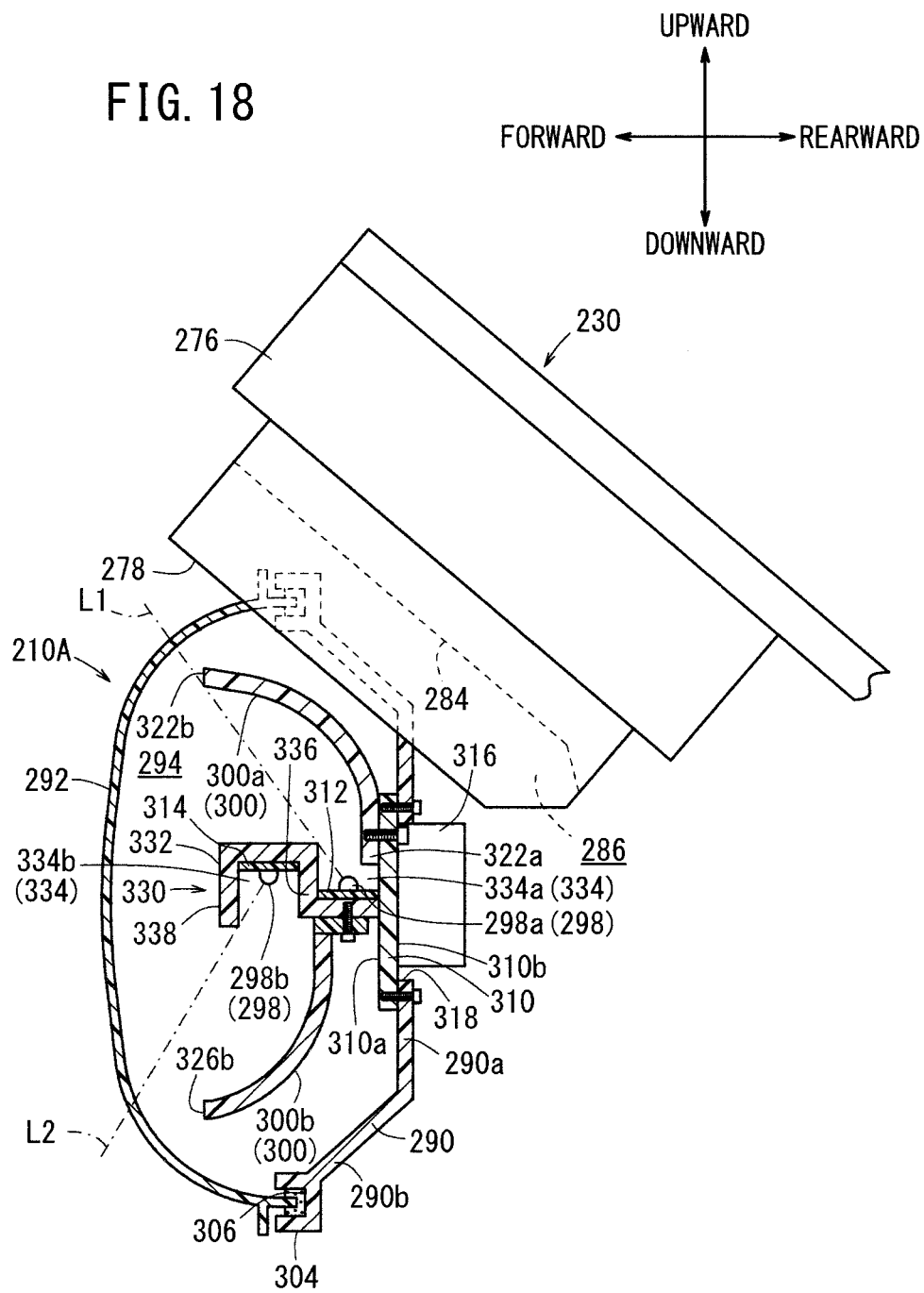
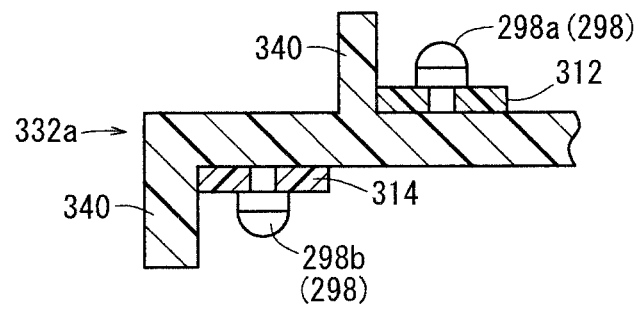


FIG. 19



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# LIGHTING DEVICE FOR VEHICLE, AND MOUNTING STRUCTURE FOR THE DEVICE

## TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a lighting device for vehicles, which includes a light-emitting diode as a light source, as well as to a mounting structure for such a lighting device.

## BACKGROUND ART

Heretofore, certain lighting devices for vehicles have the light source thereof concealed from view in order to improve the external visually perceived appearance (aesthetic appearance) of the lighting devices. Particularly in recent years, many lighting devices have incorporated a clear lens in view of the established technology for achieving light distribution with a shaped reflector rather than a cut lens. Since such a clear lens, which is included in the lighting device, tends to make the light source easily seen, there are demands for a structure that conceals the light source.

For example, Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2009-051404 discloses a position lamp including a position bulb disposed in a base member and a lens disposed in front of the position bulb. The lens has an upper portion (overlapped portion) covered with a main pipe side cover (cover member). When the position lamp is viewed from the front, the cover member conceals the position bulb for improving the appearance of the position lamp. Light that is emitted from the position bulb is partially blocked by the cover member, which covers the overlapped portion of the lens. However, light is radiated outwardly through the visible portion of the lens, which is exposed below the cover member.

## SUMMARY OF INVENTION

In contrast to position lamps, certain lighting devices, such as headlights, have a large light-emitting area. Lighting devices such as headlights are viewed externally not only from a frontal direction, but may be viewed from various angles. For example, such lighting devices may be viewed by pedestrians who bend over and look up obliquely from a lower position. In particular, since two-wheeled motor vehicles have the headlights thereof mounted higher than in four-wheeled motor vehicles, the cover member, which conceals the light source incorporated in the two-wheeled motor vehicle, may possibly allow an observer to see light emitted from the light source and which travels around the reflector, i.e., direct light, when the observer views the lighting device obliquely from a lower position.

If a light-emitting diode is used as a light source for a lighting device, then when the angle of orientation of the light-emitting diode and an angle of visual observation of an observer coincide with each other, the observer sees highly bright light as direct light from the light-emitting diode, which may possibly make the observer feel uncomfortable.

One solution would be to extend the cover member to a lower position on the lens in order to prevent the observer from seeing direct light from the light source. However, inasmuch as the cover member, if extended in this manner, would reduce the light-emitting area of the lighting device, it would be difficult for headlights in particular to achieve a desired light distribution in compliance with regulations. Another member may be attached to the cover member in order to block direct light. However, such an additional member leads

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to an increase in the number of parts, and makes the lighting device complex and poor in appearance.

The present invention has been made in view of the aforementioned problems. It is an object of the present invention to provide a lighting device for vehicles, as well as a mounting structure for the lighting device, which are simple in structure and are capable of preventing an observer from viewing a light-emitting diode directly, and from observing direct light that is emitted from the light-emitting diode over a wide range.

According to an invention recited in claim 1, there is provided a lighting device for a vehicle, comprising a base surrounded along an outer periphery thereof by a cover member of a vehicle body, a lens mounted on a front portion of the base and which is exposed through an opening defined in the cover member, and a light-emitting diode and a reflector which are housed in a space defined by the base and the lens, wherein the light-emitting diode is disposed in a predetermined position on a support assembly, which is supported on the base and extends into the space, and the support assembly includes a wall positioned forwardly of and in proximity to the predetermined position in which the light-emitting diode is disposed, the wall being disposed higher than the light-emitting diode, for limiting light that is emitted directly from the light-emitting diode.

According to an invention recited in claim 2, in the lighting device according to claim 1, the support assembly includes a cavity that houses the light-emitting diode therein, and the wall comprises a portion of an inner wall, which surrounds a peripheral side portion of the light-emitting diode in the cavity.

According to an invention recited in claim 3, in the lighting device according to claim 1, the base supports the light-emitting diode together with the support assembly in a downward facing manner, the reflector being disposed in a position confronting the light-emitting diode, and the wall being disposed at a height, such that a hypothetical straight line, which interconnects a center of the light-emitting diode and a tip end of the wall, passes through a front lower portion of the lens.

According to an invention recited in claim 4, in the lighting device according to claim 3, the reflector is curved from an upper end toward a lower end thereof, the lower end crossing the hypothetical straight line.

According to an invention recited in claim 5, in the lighting device according to claim 1, the support assembly comprises a board on which the light-emitting diode is mounted and a board support that supports the board, and the board support is made of a thermally conductive material, and is mounted on the base such that the board support supports the board on one surface thereof, and has another surface, which is opposite to the one surface, exposed through a mounting opening defined in the base.

According to an invention recited in claim 6, in a mounting structure for the lighting device according to claim 1, the cover member covers a portion of the lens, so as to conceal the light-emitting diode and the support assembly when the lighting device is viewed from the front.

According to an invention recited in claim 7, in the mounting structure for the lighting device according to claim 6, the base is disposed within the cover member, such that a surface of the support assembly on which the light-emitting diode is disposed faces obliquely rearward.

According to an invention recited in claim 8, in the mounting structure for the lighting device according to claim 6, the opening is shaped so as to be inclined obliquely upward in an outer transverse direction of the vehicle body, and the base supports the reflector and the support assembly, so as to be

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inclined obliquely upward in the outer transverse direction of the vehicle body, and at an angle of inclination of an upper end of the opening.

According to the invention recited in claim 9, in a mounting structure for the lighting device according to claim 5, heat-radiating fins, which are exposed out of the space, are disposed on the other surface of the board support, and the cover member includes a duct defined therein for guiding ram air that flows toward the heat radiating fins.

According to the invention recited in claim 1, since the support assembly has a wall positioned forwardly of and in proximity to the light-emitting diode, and is positioned higher than the light-emitting diode, the wall limits direct light from the light-emitting diode at a position closer to the light-emitting diode than the cover member. Thus, regardless of the shape of the cover member, the wall makes it possible to greatly increase a visual perception prevention range, in which direct light is prevented from being visually perceived (i.e., seen), while the wall also provides a sufficient light-emission area. Since the support assembly, which supports the light-emitting diode, includes the wall, it is easy to add the wall to the support assembly without requiring an increase in the number of parts.

According to the invention recited in claim 2, the light-emitting diode is housed in the cavity, which is defined in the support assembly. Thus, the light-emitting diode as well as direct light from the light-emitting diode is prevented from being seen over a wide range along lateral as well as frontal and oblique vertical directions.

According to the invention recited in claim 3, the hypothetical straight line, which interconnects the center of the light-emitting diode and the tip end of the wall, has a height that passes through a front lower portion of the lens. Consequently, above the hypothetical straight line, it is possible to radiate light reflected by the reflector and to block direct light emitted from the light-emitting diode. Consequently, the headlight is able to maintain a desired amount of radiated light, while at the same time reliably preventing direct light from being visually perceived.

According to the invention recited in claim 4, the lower end of the reflector crosses the hypothetical straight line. If the lighting device is seen from an angle that resides at least within a vertical angular range, the wall and the reflector are capable of blocking direct light emitted from the light-emitting diode, thereby making it possible to reliably prevent direct light from being seen.

According to the invention recited in claim 5, since the other surface of the board support, which is made of a thermally conductive material, is exposed through the mounting opening defined in the base, heat generated when the light-emitting diode emits light is radiated through the mounting opening. Consequently, thermally induced variations in operational characteristics of the light-emitting diode are reduced.

According to the invention recited in claim 6, the cover member covers a portion of the lens in order to conceal the light-emitting diode and the support assembly. Thus, the appearance of the lighting device as viewed from the front is improved.

According to the invention recited in claim 7, a surface of the support assembly on which the light-emitting diode is disposed faces obliquely rearward so as to increase the visual perception prevention range, and thereby more easily prevent direct light from the light-emitting diode from being seen.

According to the invention recited in claim 8, the reflector and the support assembly are supported so as to be inclined obliquely upward in an outer transverse direction of the

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vehicle body, and at an angle of inclination of an upper end of the opening. Accordingly, the reflector can be positioned efficiently with respect to the shape of the opening, while at the same time the light-emitting diode and the support assembly are concealed above the opening by the cover member. Therefore, the reflector can be reduced in size.

According to the invention recited in claim 9, ram air is guided in order to flow from the duct toward the heat radiating fins. Therefore, the support assembly can be cooled positively by the ram air, thereby facilitating radiation of heat, which is generated when the light-emitting diode emits light.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a side elevational view of a saddle-type two-wheeled motor vehicle, which incorporates a lighting device according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged front elevational view showing an upper left side of the two-wheeled motor vehicle shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing a lighting device according to a first embodiment and a mounting structure for the lighting device;

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing a modification of a first board support member shown in FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing a lighting device according to a second embodiment and a mounting structure for the lighting device;

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing a lighting device according to a third embodiment and a mounting structure for the lighting device;

FIG. 7 is a fragmentary front elevational view of a lighting device according to a fourth embodiment and a mounting structure for the lighting device;

FIG. 8A is a cross-sectional view, partially in front elevation, showing a lighting device according to a fifth embodiment and a mounting structure for the lighting device;

FIG. 8B is a cross-sectional view, partially in plan, showing the lighting device according to the fifth embodiment and the mounting structure for the lighting device;

FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional view, partially in plan, showing a lighting device according to a sixth embodiment and a mounting structure for the lighting device;

FIG. 10 is a side elevational view of a saddle-type two-wheeled motor vehicle, which incorporates a lighting device according to a reference example;

FIG. 11 is a front elevational view of the two-wheeled motor vehicle shown in FIG. 10;

FIG. 12 is an enlarged front elevational view of the lighting device shown in FIG. 10 and a mounting structure for the lighting device;

FIG. 13 is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing the lighting device shown in FIG. 10 and the mounting structure for the lighting device;

FIG. 14 is a cross-sectional view, partially in plan, showing the lighting device shown in FIG. 10 and the mounting structure for the lighting device;

FIG. 15 is an enlarged cross-sectional view, partially in plan, showing a support assembly shown in FIG. 14 and components in the vicinity of the support assembly;

FIG. 16 is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing the manner in which the lighting device shown in FIG. 13 operates to radiate a high beam;

FIG. 17 is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing the manner in which the lighting device shown in FIG. 13 operates to radiate a low beam;

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FIG. 18 is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing a lighting device according to a seventh embodiment and a mounting structure for the lighting device; and

FIG. 19 is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing a modification of a first support base plate shown in FIG. 18.

## DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

Lighting devices according to preferred embodiments (first through seventh embodiments) of the present invention will be described in detail below with reference to the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 is a side elevational view of a saddle-type two-wheeled motor vehicle (hereinafter also referred to as a “two-wheeled motor vehicle”) 12 which incorporates therein a lighting device (headlight) 10 according to an embodiment of the present invention. In the description that follows, to facilitate description of the invention, a saddle-type two-wheeled motor vehicle 12 will be illustrated. However, the present invention is not limited to a saddle-type two-wheeled motor vehicle, but may also be applied to other types of two-wheeled motor vehicle such as engine-powered bicycles or the like. Mechanisms and components that are laterally symmetrically mounted, one on the left side and one on the right side of the two-wheeled motor vehicle 12, will be denoted by reference numerals together with the alphabetic characters “L” for components on the left side and “R” for components on the right side. To facilitate understanding of the present invention, forward, rearward, upward, and downward directions will be described below on the basis of the arrows shown in FIG. 1, unless otherwise indicated. Leftward and rightward directions (see the arrows in FIG. 2) will be described below on the basis of directions as seen from the perspective of a driver seated on the vehicle body.

As shown in FIG. 1, the two-wheeled motor vehicle includes a front wheel 14 that serves as a steerable wheel, a handle 16 for steering the front wheel 14, a vehicle frame assembly 18 that makes up the vehicle body, an engine 20 as a drive source, a rear wheel 22 that serves as a drive wheel, and a seat assembly 24 on which riders are seated.

The front wheel 14 is supported rotatably on a lower end of a front fork 26 that extends substantially vertically. A front wheel brake 14a is mounted on a lower portion of the front fork 26. The handle 16 is coupled to an upper end of the front fork 26. The front fork 26 has a substantially intermediate portion, which is angularly movably supported on a head pipe 28 disposed on the vehicle frame assembly 18.

The handle 16 extends symmetrically in leftward and rightward directions transverse to the two-wheeled motor vehicle 12 from a central portion that is coupled to the front fork 26. Grips to be gripped by the driver are mounted on respective opposite ends of the handle 16.

The vehicle frame assembly 18 comprises a so-called diamond frame assembly, for example, which is formed from a highly rigid aluminum-cast tube frame assembly with a reduced number of frames. The vehicle frame assembly 18 includes a pair of left and right main frames 30, which branch in left and right directions from the head pipe 28, extend obliquely downward and rearward, and then curve downward in a substantially intermediate region of the vehicle body, a pair of pivot plates 32 joined respectively to rear portions of the main frames 30 and which extend downward together with the main frames 30 in the substantially intermediate region of the vehicle body, and a pair of left and right seat rails 34 joined respectively to the main frames 30 in the substan-

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tially intermediate region of the vehicle body and which extend obliquely upward and rearwardly of the vehicle body.

An engine hanger 36, which is of a triangular shape as viewed in side elevation, extends downwardly from the main frames 30, and supports the engine 20 in a tilted posture. The engine 20 comprises a cylinder block 38 and a crankcase 40. An upper portion of a front end of the crankcase 40 is supported by the engine hanger 36, and a lower portion of a rear end of the crankcase 40 is supported by the pivot plates 32. With the crankcase 40 supported in this manner, the cylinder block 38 is fixed in place with its axis raised forwardly. The engine 20 may comprise an in-line four-cylinder engine, which is installed on the vehicle frame assembly 18.

The cylinder block 38 houses ignition plugs for burning fuel, and pistons for compressing an air-fuel mixture. The crankcase 40 houses a crankshaft, which is coupled to the pistons by connecting rods, and an engine output shaft. A clutch mechanism and a transmission, which serve as a power transmitting mechanism, are disposed between the crankshaft and the engine output shaft. Rotational drive forces from the engine 20 are transmitted from the engine output shaft in the crankcase 40 to an endless drive chain 42, which transmits rotational drive forces to the rear wheel 22.

A radiator 44 for radiating heat from the engine 20 is disposed in front of the cylinder block 38. The engine 20 is disposed below a fuel tank 46 and an intake device 48. The intake device 48 has an intake port 50 connected to a rear portion of the cylinder block 38, and an air cleaner 52 connected to an upstream end of the intake port 50. The air cleaner 52, which is covered by the fuel tank 46, attracts and removes dust or the like from air that is introduced from an intake hole (not shown) defined in a vehicle body cover 66. An exhaust device 54 is connected to a rear portion of the cylinder block 38. The exhaust device 54 includes plural exhaust pipes 56, which are connected respectively to the cylinders and extend downward from the cylinder block 38, and an exhaust muffler 58, which is joined to the exhaust pipes 56 and is disposed on the right side of the rear wheel 22.

A swing arm 60 has a front end, which is vertically swingably supported on the pivot plates 32 of the vehicle frame assembly 18. The swing arm 60 has a rear end on which the rear wheel 22 is rotatably supported. A rear wheel brake 22a is mounted on the rear end of the swing arm 60. Step holders 32a, on which the feet of the driver are placed, are mounted respectively on the pivot plates 32.

The seat assembly 24 on which riders (a driver and a pillion passenger) are seated is disposed on the seat rails 34. The seat assembly 24 comprises a so-called tandem seat assembly, including a front seat 24a for the driver and a rear seat 24b for the pillion passenger, with the rear seat 24b being positioned behind the front seat 24a. The seat assembly 24 is disposed above a storage box 62 in which various objects can be stored. Pillion steps 64, on which the feet of the pillion passenger who is seated on the rear seat 24b are placed, are disposed on intermediate portions of the seat rails 34.

The vehicle body cover 66 is mounted on the vehicle frame assembly 18 of the two-wheeled motor vehicle 12, thereby providing a design surface (appearance) for the vehicle body in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle body. The vehicle body cover 66 is made of a polymeric material such as acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), fiber-reinforced plastics (FRP), or polypropylene (PP).

The vehicle body cover 66 includes a front cowl (hereinafter referred to as a “cover member”) 68 that covers a front portion of the head pipe 28, a pair of side cowls 70 covering both sides of the radiator 44 and the exhaust pipes 56 of the exhaust device 54, a rear cowl 72 disposed behind the rear end

of the fuel tank 46 and below the cover member 68 and the seat assembly 24, and a rear fender 74, which is mounted on the seat rails 34 in covering relation to an upper portion of the rear wheel 22.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged front elevational view showing an upper left side of the two-wheeled motor vehicle 12 shown in FIG. 1. The cover member (front cowl) 68 has a streamlined design surface, which spreads gradually rearward from a distal central portion above the front wheel 14 and outwardly in a transverse direction of the motor vehicle, in order to reduce air resistance applied when the motor vehicle is running. A pair of left and right rearview mirrors 76L, 76R are mounted on upper portions of the cover member 68, and a pair of left and right headlights (lighting devices) 10L, 10R are mounted on lower portions of the cover member 68. The rearview mirrors 76L, 76R have respective mirror units (not shown) on surfaces thereof that face toward the driver. Each of the rearview mirrors 76L, 76R has a position lamp 80a and a winker lamp 80b on a reverse surface thereof.

The headlights 10L, 10R are disposed in the cover member 68 with lenses thereof exposed through respective openings 69L, 69R defined in the cover member 68 below the rearview mirrors 76L, 76R. Features of the headlights 10L, 10R according to first through six embodiments will be described in detail below. In the first through six embodiments, the left side headlight 10L as viewed from the perspective of the driver will be described in detail below, and the right side headlight 10R, which is symmetrically identical in structure to the headlight 10L, will not be described below (in the description below, the character “L”, which is indicative the left side components, is omitted).

#### First Embodiment

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing a headlight 10 according to a first embodiment and a mounting structure for the lighting device. The headlight 10 according to the first embodiment includes a base 82 and a lens 84. The headlight 10 with the base 82 and the lens 84 assembled together is disposed in the cover member 68. The headlight 10 includes a light-emitting diode (hereinafter referred to as an “LED”) 86 as a light source.

The base 82 is made of a synthetic resin, which is capable of withstanding a rise in temperature caused by light emitted from the LED 86. The synthetic resin preferably is a BMC (Bulk Molding Compound) or the like, for example.

The base 82 is in the form of a box having a concave cross-sectional shape with an open front end. The base 82 has a rear side wall 82a that faces toward the open front end. A support assembly 88 (second board support member 106) is fastened by screws to an inner surface of the rear side wall 82a. The base 82 further includes a side wall 82b surrounding the rear side wall 82a, and a drive unit (drive circuit) 90, which controls energization of the headlight 10, is mounted on an outer surface of the side wall 82b. The open front end of the base 82 has a flange 92, which projects outwardly from the box of the base 82. The flange 92 has a mounting groove 94 defined in a front face thereof, and which receives and accommodates therein an open rear end of the lens 84.

The lens 84 is made of a highly transparent synthetic resin and has a concave cross-sectional shape oriented opposite to the base 82. The lens 84 is assembled on the base 82 by hot melt, welding, or the like, with the open rear end fitted in the mounting groove 94. When the lens 84 and the base 82 are assembled together, the headlight 10 has an outer profile, which serves as a casing, with the lens 84 projecting a certain distance in front of the base 82. The lens 84 has a space 98

defined therein in which the support assembly 88, the LED 86, and a reflector 96 are accommodated.

The headlight 10 is constructed such that the lens 84 has an outer surface, which is greater than the opening 69 in the cover member 68. When the headlight 10 is disposed in the cover member 68 and hence is covered by the cover member 68, an upper portion of the lens 84 is covered by the cover member 68, which extends above the opening 69.

Light radiating components, i.e., the LED 86, the reflector 96, etc., which are housed in the headlight 10, are attached to the base 82 by the support assembly 88. The LED 86 comprises an LED capable of emitting an amount of light at a color temperature suitable for use as the light source of the headlight 10. In FIGS. 2 and 3, for purposes of illustration, only one LED 86 is shown as the light source of the headlight 10. Typically, however, the headlight 10 includes an array of LEDs 86 for emitting a desired amount of light at a desired color temperature.

The support assembly 88 includes a board 100 on which the LEDs 86 are mounted, a board support 102 made up of a first board support member 104 and a second board support member 106, which are mounted on the base 82 for supporting the board 100.

Insofar as the LEDs 86 are mounted on the board 100, the board 100 also supports thereon an electric circuit, which connects the LEDs 86 electrically to each other. The board 100 preferably is made of a highly thermally conductive material for transferring heat that is generated when the LEDs 86 emit light from the board 100 to the board support 102. The electric circuit on the board 100 includes input and output terminals, which are connected electrically to the drive unit 90 by a cable 108. When the driver turns on the headlight 10, the drive unit 90 supplies electric power to the LEDs 86 so as to enable the LEDs 86 to emit a desired amount of light.

In the same manner as the board 100, the board support 102 is made of a highly thermally conductive material. In addition to being highly thermally conductive, since the board support 102 is perceived visually from the exterior, the board support 102 may be made of a material such as aluminum, for example, having a color that is close to the color of the surface of the reflector 96.

The first board support member 104 is coupled to the second board support member 106, and extends in a substantially horizontal direction on an upper portion of the space 98 inside the headlight 10. The first board support member 104 has a cavity 110 defined in a lower surface thereof. The board 100 with the LEDs 86 mounted thereon is installed on a bottom portion 110a of the cavity 110. The LEDs 86 are disposed in the cavity 110 and face downwardly.

The cavity 110 has a depth from the flat surface of the first board support member 104, such that the LEDs 86 on the board 100 mounted in the cavity 110 are accommodated in the cavity 110 as viewed in side elevation. More specifically, the height H of a side 110b of the cavity 110, which surrounds the LEDs 86, is greater than the height of the LEDs 86 that project from the board 100. From among all of the sides of the cavity 110, the side 110b, which is positioned in front of the LEDs 86, functions as a wall 112 for limiting direct light emitted from the LEDs 86. Operations and advantages of the wall 112 will be described later.

The second board support member 106 is fastened by screws to the rear side wall 82a of the base 82. The first board support member 104 is coupled to a front surface (one surface) of the second board support member 106. The second board support member 106 includes heat radiating fins 114 on a surface thereof (other surface), which is opposite to the surface to which the first board support member 104 is

coupled. When the second board support member **106** is installed on the base **82**, the heat radiating fins **114** are inserted into a mounting opening **116**, which is defined in the rear side wall **82a** of the base **82**, such that the heat radiating fins **114** project beyond an outer surface of the base **82**. Thus, the second board support member **106** can be positioned easily on the base **82**, so that the headlight **10** can be assembled in an efficient manner.

The reflector **96** has an upper end fastened by screws to a proximal end of the first board support member **104**, and a lower end that extends into the space **98**. The reflector **96** has a curved surface near a lower end thereof, which is disposed in a position facing toward the LEDs **86**. The LEDs **86** are supported, in a downwardly facing orientation, on the first board support member **104**. The reflector **96** is shaped as a curved surface, e.g., a quadric surface, which extends from the upper end toward the lower end of the reflector **96**, for reflecting forwardly light emitted from the LEDs **86**, which are disposed in the upper portion of the space **98**. The surface of the reflector **96** may be coated with a thin film of aluminum by way of evaporation.

The headlight **10** is assembled into a unit by installing the LEDs **86**, the support assembly **88** (the board **100** and the board support **102**), and the reflector **96** on the base **82**, and then attaching the lens **84** onto the front surface of the assembly. A mounting structure for the headlight **10**, which is assembled as a unit together with the cover member **68**, will be described below.

The headlight **10** is fixedly disposed in a certain position within the cover member **68**, with the base **82** being mounted on the vehicle frame assembly **18** or the cover member **68**. Since the light radiating components, i.e., the LEDs **86**, the reflector **96**, etc., are mounted on the base **82** by the support assembly **88**, the optical axis of the headlight **10** can be set stably in position by securing the base **82** at a given angle.

With the headlight **10** disposed in the cover member **68**, the lens **84** of the headlight **10** has a portion that is concealed by the cover member **68**, and a remaining portion that is exposed outwardly. More specifically, as shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, the lens **84** has a lower end, which engages with an edge of the cover member **68** defining the lower end of the opening **69**. The portion (appearance portion **84a**) of the lens **84**, which extends from the lower end up to a region of the lens **84** that is aligned with an edge of the cover member **68** defining the upper end of the opening **69**, is exposed outwardly. The other portion (overlapped portion **84b**) of the lens **84**, which extends upwardly from the upper end of the opening **69**, is overlapped and hence is covered by the cover member **68**. Therefore, with the headlight **10** being disposed in the cover member **68**, only the appearance portion **84a** of the lens **84** is perceived visually.

The headlight **10** and the mounting structure for the headlight **10** according to the first embodiment are constructed basically as described above. Operations and advantages of the headlight **10** will be described below.

The headlight **10** includes the LEDs **86** and the board **100**, which is supported by the first board support member **104** in an upper portion of the space **98**, i.e., in a region aligned with the overlapped portion **84b** of the lens **84** as viewed in front elevation. When the headlight **10** is viewed from the front while the headlight **10** is not energized, only the appearance portion **84a** of the lens **84** is perceived visually through the opening **69** of the cover member **68**. At this time, the LEDs **86**, the board **100**, and the first board support member **104** of the headlight **10** are concealed by the cover member **68** above the opening **69**, and the second board support member **106** is concealed by the reflector **96**, so that an observer can visually

perceive only the reflector **96**, which extends downwardly from the first board support member **104**. Accordingly, when the observer views the headlight **10** from the front, the observer does not see the LEDs **86** and the board **100**, and thus the headlight **10** has an improved appearance.

When the headlight **10** is energized, almost all of the rays of light emitted from the LEDs **86** travel straight to the reflector **96**, which reflects the light forwardly of the motor vehicle. A portion of the forward-travelling rays of light emitted from the LEDs **86** are blocked by the wall **112**, which is disposed in front of the LEDs **86**. Therefore, when the observer views the headlight **10** from the front, the observer can visually perceive only rays of emitted light that are reflected by the reflector **96**. Therefore, while the headlight **10** radiates light reflected by the reflector **96**, the headlight **10** also blocks light emitted directly from the LEDs **86**. Therefore, the headlight **10** is capable of maintaining a desired amount of radiated light, while at the same time preventing direct light from being perceived visually.

If the observer observes the headlight **10** from an obliquely lower position, then the observer is prevented from seeing the LEDs **86** by the wall **112**. The range in which the observer is prevented from seeing the LEDs **86** is determined depending on the positional relationship between the LEDs **86** and the wall **112**. More specifically, if the observer sees the headlight **10** in a range above a hypothetical straight line L, which interconnects the center of the LEDs **86** and the tip end of the wall **112**, then since the LEDs **86** are concealed by the wall **112**, the observer is prevented from seeing the LEDs **86**.

If the observer sees the headlight **10** in a range below the hypothetical straight line L, then the observer sees the LEDs **86**. However, the range in which the observer sees the LEDs **86** is sufficiently smaller than if the LEDs **86** were concealed by only the cover member **68**. Since the front wheel **14** also exists in the range in which the observer can see the LEDs **86**, the observer actually has a much smaller chance of seeing the LEDs **86**. Consequently, the appearance of the headlight **10** is improved.

When the headlight **10** is energized, only rays of light that are emitted from the LEDs **86** and directed toward the range in which the observer can observe the LEDs **86** are emitted directly outward from the lens **84**. In other words, rays of light that are directed toward the range (visual perception prevention range) above the hypothetical straight line L are blocked by the wall **112**, whereas rays of light directed toward the range (visual perception range) below the hypothetical straight line L are allowed to leak outside of the lens **84**. Consequently, the wall **112** is effective to significantly reduce the chances that the observer will observe light emitted directly from the LEDs **86**.

The headlight **10** according to the first embodiment includes the heat radiating fins **114**, which are disposed on the rear surface of the second board support member **106**. The heat radiating fins **114** radiate heat that is generated by the LEDs **86** when the LEDs **86** emit light. Such heat is transferred from the LEDs **86** through the board **100** and the first board support member **104** to the second board support member **106**. The heat radiating fins **114** are disposed in proximity to the position where the first board support member **104** is coupled to the second board support member **106**. Consequently, heat is smoothly transferred from the first board support member **104** through the second board support member **106** to the heat radiating fins **114**. Since the heat radiating fins **114** project outwardly from the base **82**, the heat radiating fins **114** radiate heat outside of the headlight **10**. Consequently, the heat radiating fins **114** have an increased heat radiating capability. Since heat is radiated in this manner from

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the LEDs **86** and the support assembly **88**, thermally induced variations in light emission characteristics of the LEDs **86** are reduced.

The heat radiating fins **114** on the second board support member **106** may be dispensed with, and the surface of the second board support member **106** may be exposed through the mounting opening **116** in the base **82**, for thereby efficiently radiating heat that is generated by the LEDs **86** when the LEDs **86** emit light through the mounting opening **116**. A duct, not shown, through which ram air is introduced, may be connected to the cover member **68** for guiding the introduced ram air toward the heat radiating fins **114** along the rear surface of the base **82**. The ram air, which is guided in this manner, is capable of positively cooling the support assembly **88**, thereby facilitating radiation of heat that is generated by the LEDs **86** when the LEDs **86** emit light.

FIG. **4** is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing a modification of the first board support member **104** shown in FIG. **3**. The headlight **10** may be constructed such that the first board support member **104** is devoid of the cavity **110** and includes a wall **120** that projects in front of the LEDs **86**. The projecting wall **120** also is effective to prevent an observer from visually perceiving the LEDs **86** and direct light from the LEDs **86** when the observer views the headlight **10** obliquely from a lower position.

As described above, the headlight **10** according to the first embodiment has the support assembly **88**, including the wall **112**, **120**, which is positioned higher than the LEDs **86** and is disposed in front of and in proximity to the LEDs **86**. The wall **112**, **120** limits direct light from the LEDs **86** at a position closer to the LEDs **86** than the cover member **68**. Regardless of the shape of the cover member **68**, the wall **112**, **120** makes it possible to significantly increase the visual perception prevention range, in which direct light is prevented from being perceived visually, as well as to provide a sufficient light-emission area. Therefore, when the observer bends over and observes the headlight **10**, the likelihood that the observer will feel uncomfortable due to direct light from the LEDs **86** is greatly reduced.

Since the support assembly **88**, which supports the LEDs **86**, includes the wall **112**, **120**, the wall **112**, **120** can easily be added to the support assembly **88**, which heretofore has been used to support the light source, without increasing the number of parts.

With the LEDs **86** accommodated in the cavity **110** that is defined in the support assembly **88**, the observer is prevented from seeing the LEDs **86** as well as direct light from the LEDs **86** within a wide range along lateral directions, as well as frontal and obliquely vertical directions.

#### Second Embodiment

FIG. **5** is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing a headlight **10A** according to a second embodiment and a mounting structure for the lighting device. In subsequent descriptions of the second through sixth embodiments, constituent parts, which are identical in structure and function in the same manner as those of the headlight **10** according to the first embodiment, will be denoted by identical reference characters, and such features will not be described in detail.

The headlight **10A** according to the second embodiment differs from the headlight **10** according to the first embodiment in relation to the shape of a cavity **130** and a reflector **132**. The bottom **130a** of the cavity **130**, which is defined in the first board support member **104**, is deeper from the flat surface than the cavity **110** according to the first embodiment. The LEDs **86** and the board **100** are mounted on the bottom

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**130a** of the cavity **130**, such that a wall **134**, which is positioned in front of the LEDs **86**, has a greater height **H**. Therefore, with the headlight **10A** according to the second embodiment, the hypothetical straight line **L**, which interconnects the center of the LEDs **86** and the tip end of the wall **134** positioned in front of the LEDs **86**, is inclined more sharply than the hypothetical straight line **L** according to the first embodiment.

The reflector **132** according to the second embodiment has a greater curved surface than the reflector **96** according to the first embodiment. The reflector **132**, an upper end of which is fastened to the first board support member **104**, has a lower end that extends in a forward direction across the hypothetical straight line **L**.

Therefore, the appearance portion **84a** of the headlight **10A** is exposed through the opening **69** entirely within the visual perception prevention range. More specifically, if the observer observes the headlight **10A** from above the hypothetical straight line **L**, the observer is prevented from seeing the LEDs **86** by the cavity **130** in the first board support member **104**. On the other hand, if the observer observes the headlight **10A** from below the hypothetical straight line **L**, the observer also is prevented from seeing the LEDs **86** by the reflector **132**.

The shape of the cavity **130** and/or the reflector **132** should be designed such that the hypothetical straight line **L** and the lower end of the reflector **132** intersect each other.

According to the second embodiment, irrespective of the vertical direction in which the observer sees the headlight **10A**, the wall **134** and the reflector **132** block direct light from the LEDs **86**.

#### Third Embodiment

FIG. **6** is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing a headlight **10B** according to a third embodiment and a mounting structure for the lighting device. The headlight **10B** according to the third embodiment differs from the headlights **10**, **10A** according to the other embodiments, in that the headlight **10B** is inclined obliquely downward with respect to the cover member **68**. The headlight **10B** includes a base **142** having a rear side wall **142a** and an upper side wall **142b** that are inclined obliquely downward with respect to the rear side wall **142a**. A board support member **144** is mounted on the upper side wall **142b**, which is inclined obliquely downward. A lens **146** is assembled on a front portion of the base **142**. The lens **146** has a cross-sectional shape, which is defined in view of the inclination of the headlight **10B** connected to the cover member **68**.

The board support member **144** has a cavity **148** defined in a surface (lower surface) thereof, and heat radiating fins **150** disposed on an opposite surface (upper surface) of the board support member **144**. The board **100** with the LEDs **86** mounted thereon is placed in the cavity **148**. Since the board support member **144** is mounted on the inclined upper side wall **142b** of the base **142**, as described above, the board **100**, which is disposed in the cavity **148**, is supported so as to face obliquely rearward and downwardly. The LEDs **86** mounted on the board **100** also are disposed in the cavity **148** so as to face obliquely rearward and downwardly. The heat radiating fins **150** are inserted in a mounting opening **152** defined in the upper side wall **142b** of the base **142**, such that the heat radiating fins **150** project upwardly of the base **142**.

The reflector **96**, the upper end of which is connected to the board support member **144**, is curved with a curved surface, which reflects in a forward direction the rays of light that are emitted obliquely rearward from the LEDs **86**.

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The cover member **68** with the headlight **10B** disposed therein has a duct **156** defined above the opening **69**. While the motor vehicle is traveling, the duct **156** introduces ram air from the front side of the cover member **68**, such that the ram air is made to flow in the cover member **68**.

If an observer sees the headlight **10B** according to the third embodiment from an obliquely lower position, using a simpler structure, the observer also is prevented from seeing direct light from the LEDs **86**. More specifically, with the headlight **10B** mounted on the cover member **68**, the LEDs **86** face in an oblique rearward direction, so that the hypothetical straight line **L**, which interconnects the center of the LEDs **86** and the tip end of the wall **112** positioned in front of the LEDs **86**, is inclined further downward. Therefore, the visual perception prevention range provided by the wall **112**, which prevents the observer from seeing the LEDs **86**, is increased, thus making it possible to prevent the observer from seeing direct light from the LEDs **86** more reliably.

With the board support member **144** mounted on the base **142**, the heat radiating fins **150**, which are provided on the reverse side of the cavity **148**, are disposed in an upper region of the headlight **10B**. Accordingly, heat generated by the LEDs **86** is easily transferred upwardly (through the board **100** and the board support member **144**) to the heat radiating fins **150**, for thereby increasing heat radiating efficiency. Since the heat radiating fins **150** are disposed in an upper region of the headlight **10B**, it is easier for ram air to be guided from the duct **156** in the cover member **68** to the heat radiating fins **150** than if the heat radiating fins **150** were disposed on the reverse side of the base **82** (as in the case of the headlights **10**, **10A**), thus making it possible to easily cool the heat radiating fins **150** with ram air. As a result, the heat radiating fins **150** are cooled effectively, resulting in an increase in efficiency at which heat is radiated from the LEDs **86**, the board **100**, and the board support member **144**.

## Fourth Embodiment

FIG. **7** is a fragmentary front elevational view of a headlight **10C** according to a fourth embodiment and a mounting structure for the lighting device. The headlight **10C** according to the fourth embodiment differs from the headlights **10**, **10A**, **10B** according to the other embodiments, in that an opening **162**, which is defined in a cover member **160**, is inclined obliquely upward and outwardly in a transverse direction of the motor vehicle. The headlight **10C** has a base **164** and a lens **166**, which are molded so with to engage in the opening **162** and be disposed within the cover member **160**. More specifically, the lens **166** of the headlight **10C** has an appearance portion **166a**, which is inclined obliquely upward to the left along the opening **162**, and an overlapped portion **166b**, which extends into the cover member **160** along an upper end of the opening **162**.

The base **164** has an open end that engages with a rear open end of the lens **166**. The base **164** supports the reflector **96** and the support assembly **88** (the board **100** and the board support **102**) so as to be inclined obliquely upward and outwardly in a transverse direction of the motor vehicle, along the angle of inclination of the upper end of the opening **162**. The reflector **96** and the first board support member **104** are mounted on the base **164** at a given angle of inclination, which is equal to the angle of inclination of the opening **162**, about the center of a tip end of the vehicle body when the headlight **10C** is viewed from the front. Therefore, the board **100**, which is mounted on the first board support member **104**, also is inclined as viewed from the front.

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Insofar as the base **164** supports the first board support member **104** obliquely, the cover member **160** above the opening **162** covers the LEDs **86** and the support assembly **88**, and the reflector **96** is disposed efficiently in relation to the shape of the opening **162**. More specifically, since the base **164** has the LEDs **86** and the reflector **96** inclined in a similar manner, light emitted from the LEDs **86** and which is applied to the reflector **96** is reflected reliably in a forward direction. With the opening **162** inclined in this manner, therefore, the reflector **96**, which also is inclined, may be smaller in size than if the reflector **96** were disposed in a substantially horizontal orientation.

If the observer views the headlight **10** from an oblique lower position, the observer is prevented from seeing the LEDs **86** as well as direct light from the LEDs **86** as a result of the cavity **110** (wall **112**), which is defined in the first board support member **104**, in the same manner as the headlights **10**, **10A**, **10B**.

## Fifth Embodiment

FIG. **8A** is a cross-sectional view, partially in front elevation, showing a lighting device according to a fifth embodiment and a mounting structure for the lighting device. FIG. **8B** is a cross-sectional view, partially in plan, showing the lighting device according to the fifth embodiment and the mounting structure for the lighting device. The lighting device, i.e., a headlight **10D**, according to the fifth embodiment differs from the headlights **10**, **10A**, **10B**, **10C** according to the other embodiments, in that the light source (LEDs **86**) of the headlight **10D** is disposed on a side surface of a base **172**, with respect to the opening **162** according to the fourth embodiment.

The base **172** and a lens **174** are shaped in the form of a parallelogram as viewed in front elevation (see FIG. **8A**), and have a substantially concave cross-sectional shape as viewed in plan (see FIG. **8B**). The base **172** has a rear side wall **172a** with a board support member **176** attached thereto. The board support member **176** has an end portion, which is bent into an extension **178** that extends obliquely forward as viewed in plan. The board **100** with the LEDs **86** mounted thereon is mounted on an inner surface of the extension **178**. The extension **178** includes an inwardly projecting wall **180** on a front end thereof. The wall **180** is positioned higher than the LEDs **86** in the forward direction of the wall **180**.

A reflector **182** is mounted on the board support member **176** and is laterally curved in facing relation to the LEDs **86**, which are disposed on the extension **178**. Rays of light emitted from the LEDs **86** are reflected by the reflector **182** and are radiated forwardly of the headlight **10D**.

Heat radiating fins **184** are integrally disposed on the surface of the board support member **176**, which is opposite to the surface from which the extension **178** projects. Heat generated when the LEDs **86** emit light is transferred through the extension **178** and the board support member **176** to the heat radiating fins **184**, which radiate the heat.

With the headlight **10D** disposed in the cover member **160**, the side portion (extension **178**) where the LEDs **86** are disposed is concealed. Therefore, if an observer sees the headlight **10D** from the front, the observer is prevented from seeing the LEDs **86** and the extension **178**. Further, if an observer sees the headlight **10D** from an obliquely lateral direction, then since rays of light directed in a range (visual perception prevention range) on the left side of the hypothetical straight line **L** interconnecting the center of the LEDs **86** and the tip end of a wall **180** are blocked by the wall **180**, the

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observer has a much smaller chance of laterally observing direct light emitted from the LEDs **86** on account of the wall **180**.

#### Sixth Embodiment

FIG. **9** is a cross-sectional view, partially in plan, showing a headlight **10E** according to a sixth embodiment and a mounting structure for the lighting device. The headlight **10E** according to the sixth embodiment differs from the headlights **10**, **10A**, **10B**, **10C**, **10D** according to the other embodiments, in that a board support member **190** is mounted on a side wall **172b** of the base **172**. The board support member **190** includes heat radiating fins **192** on a surface thereof opposite to the surface on which the board **100** is disposed. With the board support member **190** mounted on the base **172**, the heat radiating fins **192** project sidewise from the base **172**. The cover member **160** has a duct **194** defined therein at a position confronting the heat radiating fins **192**, i.e., laterally of the opening **162**. The duct **194** introduces ram air into the cover member **160** while the motor vehicle is running. With the headlight **10D** constructed in this manner, ram air is introduced toward the heat radiating fins **192** from the duct **194** for thereby increasing the efficiency at which heat is radiated from the board support member **190**.

#### REFERENCE EXAMPLE

Headlights (lighting devices) for two-wheeled motor vehicles may be arranged to provide two light distribution patterns, including a low beam for irradiating a relatively wide zone positioned obliquely downward of the vehicle body, and a high beam for irradiating a relatively narrow zone positioned in front of the low beam. The headlights preferably are constructed in view of thermal effects in addition to the light distribution patterns including the low beam and the high beam. A headlight for motor vehicles, which is of a simple structure and is capable of applying a low beam and a high beam as well as easily radiating generated heat when light-emitting diodes emit light, for thereby stably applying the low beam and the high beam, will be described below together with a mounting structure for mounting the headlight.

FIG. **10** is a side elevational view of a saddle-type two-wheeled motor vehicle **212**, which incorporates a headlight **210** according to the reference example. Similar to the headlight **10** according to the first embodiment, mechanisms or components, which are laterally symmetrically mounted, one on the left side and one on the right side, of the two-wheeled motor vehicle **212**, will be denoted by reference numerals together with the character "L" to designate components on the left side, and with the character "R" to designate components on the right side. Forward, rearward, upward, and downward directions will be described below on the basis of the arrows shown in FIG. **10**, unless otherwise indicated. Leftward and rightward directions (see the arrows in FIG. **11**) will be described below on the basis of directions as seen from the perspective of a driver seated on the vehicle body.

As shown in FIG. **10**, the two-wheeled motor vehicle **212** includes a front wheel **214** that serves as a steerable wheel, a handle **216** for steering the front wheel **214**, a vehicle frame assembly **218** that makes up the vehicle body, an engine **220** as a drive source, a rear wheel **222** that serves as a drive wheel, and a seat assembly **224** on which riders are seated.

The front wheel **214** is rotatably supported on the lower end of a front fork **226**, which extends substantially vertically. A front wheel brake disk **214a** is mounted on a side portion of

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the front wheel **214**, and an arcuate front fender **228** is disposed over an upper portion of the front wheel **214**. The handle **216** is coupled to the upper end of the front fork **226**. The front fork **226** has a substantially intermediate portion, which is angularly movably supported on a head pipe **229** disposed on a front end of the vehicle frame assembly **218**. A headlight **210** and a meter unit **230** housing meters therein are mounted on an upper portion of the front fork **226**.

The handle **216** extends symmetrically leftward and rightward in transverse directions of the two-wheeled motor vehicle **212**, from a central portion of the two-wheeled motor vehicle **212** that is coupled to the front fork **226**. Grips, which are gripped by the driver, are mounted on the respective opposite ends of the handle **216**.

The vehicle frame assembly **218** comprises a so-called double-cradle frame assembly, which is in the form of a highly rigid aluminum-cast tube frame assembly, for example. The vehicle frame assembly **218** includes a pair of left and right main frames **232**, which branch to the left and right from the head pipe **229** and extend gradually obliquely downward and rearwardly, and then are curved downward at a substantially intermediate region of the vehicle body, a pair of down pipes **234**, which branch to the left and right from front ends of the main frames **232** and extend obliquely downward below the main frames **232**, and then rearwardly and substantially horizontally through curved portions **234a**, a pair of left and right seat rails **236**, which are joined respectively to the main frames **232** in a substantially intermediate region of the vehicle body, and which extend obliquely upward and rearwardly, a pair of pivot plates **238** disposed respectively on lower portions of the main frames **232**, and a pair of left and right reinforcing stays **240**, which extend obliquely upward and rearwardly from the pivot plates **238** and are connected to the seat rails **236**.

An engine **220** is disposed behind the front wheel **214** and between the main frames **232** and the down pipes **234**. The engine **220** may comprise an in-line four-cylinder engine. The engine **220** has a crankcase **242**, which is fixed to lower portions of the main frames **232**, and a cylinder block **244**, which is coupled to a front upper portion of the crankcase **242**.

The cylinder block **244** houses therein ignition plugs for burning fuel, and pistons for compressing an air-fuel mixture. The crankcase **242** houses therein a crankshaft, which is coupled to the pistons by connecting rods, an engine output shaft, and a clutch mechanism and a transmission that serve as a power transmitting mechanism, and which are disposed between the crankshaft and the engine output shaft. Rotational drive forces from the engine **20** are transmitted from the engine output shaft in the crankcase **242** to an endless drive chain **246**, which transmits the rotational drive forces to the rear wheel **222**.

A radiator **248** for radiating heat from the engine **220** is disposed in front of the cylinder block **244**. An intake device (air cleaner **250**) is disposed behind the cylinder block **244**. An exhaust device **252** is connected to the cylinder block **244**. The exhaust device **252** has a plurality of exhaust pipes **254** connected respectively to the cylinders, and which extend downwardly from a front portion of the engine **220**, and an exhaust muffler **256** joined to the exhaust pipes **254**, and which extends rearwardly from a lower portion of the vehicle frame assembly **218** on the right side of the vehicle body.

A swing arm **258** has a front end vertically and swingably supported on the pivot plates **238** of the vehicle frame assembly **218**. A rear cushion **260** is interposed between an upper portion of the rear end of the swing arm **258** and the seat rail **236**. The rear wheel **222** is rotatably supported on the rear end of the swing arm **258**, and a rear wheel brake disk **222a** also

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is mounted on the rear end of the swing arm 258. Rearwardly extending pillion steps 262 are fixed to the pivot plates 238, and step holders 262a, on which the feet of the driver and a pillion passenger are placed, are mounted respectively on the pillion steps 262.

A fuel tank 264 is disposed over and across upper portions of the main frames 232. A seat assembly 224 on which riders (a driver and a pillion passenger) are seated is disposed on upper portions of the seat rails 236 behind the fuel tank 264. The seat assembly 224 comprises a so-called tandem seat assembly, including a front seat 224a on which the driver is seated and a rear seat 224b on which the pillion passenger is seated, with the rear seat 224b being positioned behind the front seat 224a.

Rear winkers 266 are mounted on rear portions of the seat rails 236, and a rear fender 268, which has a substantially arcuate shape as viewed in side elevation, also is mounted on rear portions of the seat rails 236. A tail lamp 268a and a license plate 268b are attached respectively to the rear fender 268.

The headlight 210 of the two-wheeled motor vehicle 212 according to the reference example and a mounting structure for the headlight 210 will be described in specific detail below. FIG. 11 is a front elevational view of the two-wheeled motor vehicle 212 shown in FIG. 10, and FIG. 12 is an enlarged front elevational view of the headlight 210 shown in FIG. 10 together with a mounting structure for the headlight 210. As shown in FIG. 11, the headlight 210 is provided as a single head lamp, which is mounted on the front fork 226 that extends vertically over the front wheel 214. After the headlight 210 has been assembled as a single unit, the headlight 210 is installed on the front fork 226 by attachments 270 (see FIG. 10), so as to be sandwiched between the fork members of the front fork 226. As shown in FIGS. 10 and 11, the headlight 210 is fixed to an upper portion of the front fork 226 in engagement with the meter unit 230. However, the meter unit 230 and the headlight 210 need not necessarily be held in engagement with each other, insofar as the meter unit 230 and the headlight 210 are in a partially overlapping positional relationship when the motor vehicle is viewed in side elevation.

The meter unit 230 according to the reference example includes a speedometer 272 and a tachometer 274 on an upper surface thereof facing toward the driver. The speedometer 272 and the tachometer 274 are arrayed along a transverse direction of the motor vehicle, and are disposed in laterally symmetrical positions with respect to the central axis of the vehicle body. The two meters 272, 274 are housed in a cover member 276 such that only the instrument indicator surfaces thereof are exposed.

The cover member 276 of the meter unit 230 has a thickness, which is sufficiently large to house the two meters 272, 274, which are movement type meters. The cover member 276 has, on a lower surface thereof, two bulging domes 278 in which the speedometer 272 and the tachometer 274 are disposed, and a bridge 280 that is sandwiched between the two domes 278. The domes 278 and the bridge 280 are joined to each other as a joint structure, which partially includes an arcuate recess 282 (see FIG. 12).

The meter unit 230 is mounted on the front fork 226 such that a lower surface of the cover member 276 faces obliquely forward (see FIG. 10). The headlight 210 is mounted on the front fork 226 so as to face in a forward direction. With the meter unit 230 and the headlight 210, which are mounted on the front fork 226 in this manner, the headlight 210 has a casing 210a, the upper portion (principally the base 290) of which enters the recess 282 and abuts against the lower sur-

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face of the cover member 276. Thus, the headlight 210 and the meter unit 230 are combined together to provide an integral appearance on a front upper portion of the two-wheeled motor vehicle 212.

The bridge 280 of the cover member 276 has a slot 284 defined therein, which extends perpendicularly to a direction along which the two meters 272, 274 are arrayed. With the headlight 210 and the meter unit 230 installed in position, one portion of the casing 210a of the headlight 210 enters the slot 284, whereas the other portion of the casing 210a abuts against a peripheral portion of the slot 284, so as to provide a passage (flow channel 286) which is surrounded by the slot 284 and the casing 210a (see FIG. 13). Operations and advantages of the flow channel 286 will be described later.

FIG. 13 is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing the headlight 210 shown in FIG. 10 and the mounting structure for the lighting device. FIG. 14 is a cross-sectional view, partially in plan, showing the headlight 210 shown in FIG. 10 and the mounting structure for the lighting device. FIG. 15 is an enlarged cross-sectional view, partially in plan, showing a support assembly 296 shown in FIG. 14 and components in the vicinity of the support assembly 296. The headlight 210 according to the reference example includes the base 290 and a lens 292, which collectively make up the casing 210a. The base 290 and the lens 292 jointly define a space 294 therebetween, in which the support assembly 296, the light-emitting diodes (hereinafter referred to as "LEDs") 298, and a reflector 300 are housed.

The base 290 is shaped with an outer profile, which engages the cover member 276 of the meter unit 230. More specifically, the base 290 is circular in shape as viewed in front elevation (see FIG. 12). As viewed in sectional side elevation, the base 290 is substantially concave in cross section, wherein a side wall 290b of the base 290 spreads in a tapered fashion from a rear side wall 290a toward a front open end (see FIG. 13).

The base 290 is made of a synthetic resin, which can withstand a rise in temperature caused by light emitted by the LEDs 298. The synthetic resin preferably is a BMC (Bulk Molding Compound) or the like, for example.

A support assembly 296 (second support base plate 310) is fastened by screws to an inner surface of the rear side wall 290a of the base 290. A drive unit (drive circuit) 302 for controlling energization of the headlight 210 is mounted on an outer surface of the rear side wall 290a. The open front end of the base 290 has a flange 304, which projects outwardly from the base 290. The flange 304 includes a mounting groove 306 defined in a front face thereof, and which receives an open rear end of the lens 292.

The lens 292, which is made of a highly transparent synthetic resin, has a circular shape and engages with the base 290 as viewed in front elevation (see FIG. 12). The lens 292 also is substantially arcuate in shape as viewed in cross-sectional side elevation (see FIG. 13). The lens 292 is assembled on the base 290 with the rear open end of the lens 292 fitted in the mounting groove 306.

As shown in FIGS. 13 and 14, the light radiating components, i.e., the LEDs 298, the reflector 300, etc., which are housed in the headlight 210, are attached to the base 290 by the support assembly 296. The support assembly 296 includes a first support base plate 308 (first board support member) in the form of a flat plate, which extends in the space 294 in the longitudinal direction of the motor vehicle, a second support base plate 310 (second board support member), which is fastened to the base 290 by screws and extends in a vertical direction, an upper mounting board 312, which is disposed on an upper surface of the first support base plate 308, and a

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lower mounting board **314**, which is disposed on a lower surface of the first support base plate **308**. The support assembly **296** is made of a highly thermally conductive material.

The first support base plate **308** is coupled perpendicularly to the surface **310a** of the second support base plate **310**, which faces toward the space **294**. The second support base plate **310** supports the first support base plate **308** so as to extend in the longitudinal direction of the motor vehicle. The first support base plate **308** extends substantially horizontally in the space **294** at a vertically intermediate position. The plural LEDs **298** are mounted via the upper mounting board **312** and the lower mounting board **314** at given positions on upper and lower surfaces of a flat plate that serves as the first support base plate **308**.

A plurality of heat radiating plates (heat radiating fins **316**, heat radiating means), each of which is in the form of a flat plate, are disposed on the surface **310b** of the second support base plate **310**, which is opposite to the surface **310a** thereof that is coupled to the first support base plate **308**. When the second support base plate **310** is installed on the base **290**, the heat radiating fins **316** are inserted into a mounting opening **318**, which is defined in the rear side wall **290a** of the base **290**. The heat radiating fins **316** project beyond an outer surface of the base **290**. Consequently, the second support base plate **310** can easily be positioned on the base **290**, thereby enabling efficient assembly of the headlight **210**.

The first support base plate **308**, the second support base plate **310**, and the heat radiating fins **316** may be produced separately and thereafter coupled to each other. However, the first support base plate **308**, the second support base plate **310**, and the heat radiating fins **316** may also be integrally molded as an individual component, thereby enabling the number of parts of the headlight **210** to be reduced. In addition, in this manner, the headlight **210** can be manufactured with less cost and assembled more efficiently.

The LEDs **298**, which are disposed on upper and lower surfaces of the first support base plate **308**, comprise LEDs that are capable of emitting an amount of light at a color temperature suitable for use as a light source for the headlight **210**. The LEDs **298** according to the reference example include low-beam LEDs **298a** disposed on an upper surface of the first support base plate **308**, and high-beam LEDs **298b** disposed on a lower surface of the first support base plate **308**. The low-beam LEDs **298a** serve as a light source for irradiating a relatively wide zone positioned obliquely downward of the vehicle body, and the high-beam LEDs **298b** serve as a light source for irradiating a relatively narrow zone positioned in front of the low beam. The low-beam LEDs **298a** and the high-beam LEDs **298b** may be LEDs of one type for thereby reducing the cost of the parts used. On the other hand, the low-beam LEDs **298a** and the high-beam LEDs **298b** may also be LEDs of different types. For example, the low-beam LEDs **298a** and the high-beam LEDs **298b** may be LEDs that emit different amounts of light.

A plurality (four in the reference example) of low-beam LEDs **298a** are arrayed in the transverse direction of the motor vehicle on the upper surface of the first support base plate **308**. The four low-beam LEDs **298a** are disposed at given positions on the upper surface of the first support base plate **308** by the upper mounting board **312**. The upper mounting board **312** is printed with a given electric circuit (not shown), the input and output terminals of which are connected to the drive unit **302** by a cable **320**. The four low-beam LEDs **298a** are connected in series in addition to being mounted on the upper mounting board **312**. When the driver takes an action to emit a low beam, each of the low-

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beam LEDs **298a** is supplied with electric power from the drive unit **302** to emit a predetermined amount of light.

A plurality (two in the reference example) of high-beam LEDs **298b** are arrayed in the transverse direction of the motor vehicle on the lower surface of the first support base plate **308**. The two high-beam LEDs **298b** are disposed at given positions on the lower surface of the first support base plate **308** by the lower mounting board **314**. A given electric circuit also is printed on the lower mounting board **314**. The two high-beam LEDs **298b** are connected in series in addition to being mounted on the lower mounting board **314**. When the driver takes an action to emit a high beam, each of the high-beam LEDs **298b** is supplied with electric power from the drive unit **302** to emit a predetermined amount of light.

The low-beam LEDs **298a** are positioned more closely to the heat radiating fins **316** than the high-beam LEDs **298b**. More specifically, as shown in FIGS. **14** and **15**, when the first support base plate **308** is viewed in plan, the upper mounting board **312** is disposed in the vicinity of the second support base plate **310**, and the lower mounting board **314** is disposed in front of the upper mounting board **312**.

The layout of the four low-beam LEDs **298a** and the two high-beam LEDs **298b** will be described in more specific detail below. The four low-beam LEDs **298a** are arrayed in the transverse direction of the motor vehicle behind the first support base plate **308** at equal distances from the heat radiating fins **316**. The low-beam LEDs **298a** are spaced with given intervals therebetween.

The two high-beam LEDs **298b** are arrayed such that hypothetical straight lines X, which extend along minimum paths from the high-beam LEDs **298b** toward the heat radiating fins **316**, pass through gaps between the positions of the four low-beam LEDs **298a**. The two high-beam LEDs **298b** are arrayed in the transverse direction of the motor vehicle such that the high-beam LEDs **298b** are positioned on the lower surface of the first support base plate **308** at equal distances from the heat radiating fins **316**.

As described above, the headlight **210** has the four low-beam LEDs **298a** and the two high-beam LEDs **298b**, which are disposed in respective non-overlapping positions as viewed in plan (in the longitudinal and transverse directions of the motor vehicle). Operations and advantages of the layout of the low-beam LEDs **298a** and the high-beam LEDs **298b** will be described later.

Referring back to FIG. **13**, the reflector **300** of the headlight **210** includes a low-beam reflector **300a**, which reflects light emitted from the low-beam LEDs **298a**, and a high-beam reflector **300b**, which reflects light emitted from the high-beam LEDs **298b**. The surface of the reflector **300** may be coated with a thin film of aluminum by way of evaporation.

A proximal end portion **322a** of the low-beam reflector **300a** is fastened by screws to the surface **310a** of the second support base plate **310**, which faces toward the space **294** and is disposed above the first support base plate **308**. The low-beam reflector **300a** is shaped as a curved surface, e.g., a quadric surface, for reflecting light emitted from the low-beam LEDs **298a** as a low beam. The low-beam reflector **300a** is mounted on the second support base plate **310** while leaving a gap **324** between the low-beam reflector **300a** and the upper surface of the first support base plate **308**. The upper mounting board **312** is disposed on the upper surface of the first support base plate **308**, and has a rear portion that enters into the gap **324**, thereby bringing the low-beam LEDs **298a** closer to the heat radiating fins **316**.

The high-beam reflector **300b** is shaped as a curved surface, e.g., a quadric surface, for reflecting light emitted from the high-beam LEDs **298b** as a high beam. The high-beam

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reflector **300b** has a proximal end portion **326a** fastened by screws to a lower surface of the first support base plate **308** in alignment with the upper mounting board **312**. Therefore, the high-beam reflector **300b** is positioned in front of the low-beam reflector **300a**. As a result, the high-beam reflector **300b** is capable of reflecting light emitted from the high-beam LEDs **298b** at a position close to the high-beam LEDs **298b**, thereby reducing loss of light.

With the reflector **300** according to the reference example, the low-beam reflector **300a** has a front end **322b** and the high-beam reflector **300b** has a front end **326b**. The respective front ends **322b**, **326b** project at substantially aligned positions. Therefore, the low-beam reflector **300a** and the high-beam reflector **300b** of the reflector **300** are visually perceived as having fan shapes, which are curved vertically and spread from the centers thereof in the transverse direction of the motor vehicle (see FIG. 12). More specifically, since the front ends **322b**, **326b** of the low-beam reflector **300a** and the high-beam reflector **300b** are aligned with each other, the reflector **300** is recognized visually as being symmetrical when viewed in front elevation, and hence, the reflector **300** has an improved appearance (aesthetic appearance). When the reflector **300** is viewed in side elevation, the reflector provides a lens surface, which is free of vertical protrusions.

The headlight **210** according to the reference example and the mounting structure for the headlight **210** are basically constructed as described above. Operations and advantages of the headlight **210** will be described below. FIG. 16 is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing the manner in which the headlight **210** shown in FIG. 13 operates to radiate a high beam, and FIG. 17 is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing the manner in which the headlight **210** shown in FIG. 13 operates to radiate a low beam.

When the driver takes an action to emit a low beam, the drive unit **302** (see FIG. 14) is controlled to energize the four low-beam LEDs **298a** to emit a given amount of light. The low-beam LEDs **298a** may be energized at all times. As shown in FIG. 16, the low-beam LEDs **298a** emit rays of light upwardly or obliquely upward based on the angle of orientation thereof. The low-beam reflector **300a**, which is disposed in an upper portion of the space **294**, reflects via the reflecting surface (curved surface) thereof the rays of light emitted from the low-beam LEDs **298a** in a prescribed direction. In this manner, the headlight **210** provides a low-beam light distribution obliquely downward in front of the vehicle body.

As described above, the four low-beam LEDs **298a** are arrayed in the transverse direction of the motor vehicle on the first support base plate **308** (see FIG. 15). Therefore, the four low-beam LEDs **298a** emit light, which is spread in the transverse direction of the motor vehicle, and a low beam, which is reflected by the low-beam reflector **300a**, is radiated obliquely downward while spreading in the transverse direction (lateral direction) of the motor vehicle. More specifically, by way of the low-beam LEDs **298a**, which are arrayed in the transverse direction of the motor vehicle, and the low-beam reflector **300a**, the headlight **210** is capable of brightly irradiating a relatively wide zone that is present obliquely downward of the vehicle body.

When the driver takes an action to emit a high beam, the drive unit **302** (see FIG. 14) is controlled to energize the two high-beam LEDs **298b** in order to emit a given amount of light. The high-beam LEDs **298b** are not energized at all times. As shown in FIG. 17, the high-beam LEDs **298b** emit light toward the high-beam reflector **300b** based on the angle of orientation thereof. The high-beam reflector **300b**, which is disposed in a lower portion of the space **294**, reflects, by way

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of the reflecting surface (curved surface), the rays of light emitted from the high-beam LEDs **298b** in a prescribed direction, thereby providing a high-beam light distribution. In this manner, the headlight **210** is capable of radiating a high beam as a light spot, which is positioned in front of the low beam.

As described above, by way of the four low-beam LEDs **298a** and the low-beam reflector **300a**, the headlight **210** according to the reference example is capable of providing a sufficiently bright distribution of low-beam light in a wide zone, and also is capable of providing a distribution of high-beam light as a light spot by way of the two high-beam LEDs **298b** and the high-beam reflector **300b**.

As shown in FIG. 16, since the low-beam LEDs **298a** are supported on the first and second support base plates **308**, **310** by the upper mounting board **312**, heat that is generated when the low-beam LEDs **298a** emit light is easily transmitted to the second support base plate **310** through the upper mounting board **312** and the first support base plate **308**. Similarly, since the high-beam LEDs **298b** are supported on the first and second support base plates **308**, **310** by the lower mounting board **314**, heat that is generated when the high-beam LEDs **298b** emit light is easily transmitted to the second support base plate **310** through the lower mounting board **314** and the first support base plate **308** (see FIG. 17).

As shown in FIGS. 16 and 17, the heat radiating fins **316**, which are disposed on the surface **310b** of the second support base plate **310**, are capable of easily radiating heat that is transferred to the second support base plate **310**. As a result, the operational characteristics of the LEDs **298** are stabilized for enabling the low beam and the high beam to be radiated in a stable manner.

The low-beam LEDs **298a** are positioned more closely to the heat radiating fins **316** than the high-beam LEDs **298b**, so that heat generated by the low-beam LEDs **298a**, which are energized more frequently than the high-beam LEDs **298b**, i.e., which are energized at all times, can be radiated efficiently. Since the low-beam LEDs **298a** and the high-beam LEDs **298b** are disposed in respective non-overlapping positions, heat generated by the low-beam LEDs **298a** and the high-beam LEDs **298b** is prevented from being concentrated on a portion of the first support base plate **308**, and hence the first support base plate **308**, etc., is prevented from becoming deformed. Furthermore, the low-beam LEDs **298a** and the high-beam LEDs **298b** are less likely to thermally affect each other.

As described above, the low-beam LEDs **298a** are disposed in the vicinity of the second support base plate **310**, with a portion of the upper mounting board **312** entering into the gap **324** between the first support base plate **308** and the low-beam reflector **300a**. Therefore, the distance from the low-beam LEDs **298a** to the second support base plate **310** is reduced for promoting transfer of heat. As a consequence, the efficiency at which the heat generated when the low-beam LEDs **298a** are turned on is radiated is increased. Furthermore, since the first support base plate **308** can be made shorter in the longitudinal direction of the motor vehicle, the headlight **210** can be reduced in size.

In addition, since the four low-beam LEDs **298a** are arrayed in the transverse direction of the motor vehicle, distances from the low-beam LEDs **298a** to the heat radiating fins **316** are uniformly reduced for thereby increasing the heat radiating efficiency.

As shown in FIG. 15, the hypothetical straight lines X, which extend along minimum paths from the high-beam LEDs **298b** to the heat radiating fins **316**, pass through gaps between the positions of the four low-beam LEDs **298a**. Consequently, the low-beam LEDs **298a** and the high-beam

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LEDs **298b** can be spaced from each other without overlapping in the longitudinal and transverse directions of the motor vehicle, so that the low-beam LEDs **298a** and the high-beam LEDs **298b** are less likely to thermally affect each other.

The two high-beam LEDs **298b** are spaced at equal distances from the heat radiating fins **316**, and are arrayed in the transverse direction of the motor vehicle. Therefore, heat can easily be transferred from the high-beam LEDs **298b** to the heat radiating fins **316** for thereby increasing the heat radiating efficiency.

As shown in FIGS. **16** and **17**, the flow channel **286**, which is defined by the slot **284** and the casing **210a**, is disposed in an upper portion of the headlight **210**. The flow channel **286** extends in an oblique vertical direction along the lower surface of the cover member **276**, and has an opening **286a** defined in front of the meter unit **230** and above the headlight **210**, and another opening **286b** defined below the meter unit **230** and behind the headlight **210**.

With the headlight **210** and the meter unit **230** both being mounted on the front fork **226**, the heat radiating fins **316** are disposed below the flow channel **286** (opening **286b**). During running of the two-wheeled motor vehicle **212**, the flow channel **286** introduces ram air from the front region (opening **286a**), and guides the ram air downwardly (through the opening **286b**) to the heat radiating fins **316**, which are positioned below the meter unit **230**.

Therefore, the heat radiating fins **316** are cooled by ram air, which is introduced when the two-wheeled motor vehicle **212** runs, whereby the heat radiating fins **316** easily radiate the heat that is generated when the LEDs **298** emit light. Inasmuch as the heat radiating fins **316** are mounted on the second support base plate **310**, which serve as vertically extending heat radiating plates, the heat radiating fins **316** can easily guide the ram air that has been delivered from the flow channel **286** downwardly from above. Consequently, the efficiency at which heat is radiated by way of the heat radiating fins **316** is increased.

The headlight **210** according to the reference example and the mounting structure for the headlight **210** are not limited to the above arrangement, but may employ various alternative arrangements. For example, the low-beam LEDs **298a** and the high-beam LEDs **298b** may be mounted directly on the support assembly **296**, rather than via the upper mounting board **312** and the lower mounting board **314**, for enabling smoother transfer of heat.

According to the reference example, the low-beam LEDs **298a** and the high-beam LEDs **298b** are arrayed in the transverse direction of the motor vehicle. However, the low-beam LEDs **298a** and the high-beam LEDs **298b** may also be arrayed in the longitudinal direction of the motor vehicle.

## Seventh Embodiment

A headlight **210A** according to a seventh embodiment will be described below. FIG. **18** is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing the headlight **210A** according to the seventh embodiment and a mounting structure for the headlight **210A**. In the subsequent description of the seventh embodiment, parts which are identical in structure and function to those of the headlight **210** according to the reference example will be denoted by identical reference characters, and such features will not be described in detail below.

The headlight **210A** according to the seventh embodiment differs from the headlights **10**, **10A** through **10E** according to the first through sixth embodiments and the headlight **210** according to the reference example, in that a first support base

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plate **332** (support member **330**) has two cavities **334** (first cavity **334a**, second cavity **334b**) defined therein.

The first cavity **334a** is defined in an upper surface of the first support base plate **332** in proximity to the second support base plate **310**. The second cavity **334b** is defined in a lower surface of the first support base plate **332** in front of the first cavity **334a**. When the first support base plate **332** is viewed in sectional side elevation, the first cavity **334a**, which opens upwardly, and the second cavity **334b**, which opens downwardly, are juxtaposed in the longitudinal direction of the motor vehicle. An intermediate wall **336**, which is disposed between the two cavities **334a**, **334b**, serves as one common wall of the cavities **334a**, **334b**.

The low-beam LEDs **298a** are mounted in the first cavity **334a** by the upper mounting board **312**, whereas the high-beam LEDs **298b** are mounted in the second cavity **334b** by the lower mounting board **314**.

More specifically, the low-beam LEDs **298a**, which are housed in the first cavity **334a**, are prevented from being seen by an observer when the observer views the headlight **210A** from the front. An angle of a hypothetical straight line **L1**, which defines the visual perception prevention range for the low-beam LEDs **298a**, is determined by a front wall (intermediate wall **336**) of the first cavity **334a** in which the low-beam LEDs **298a** are disposed.

In particular, since the low-beam LEDs **298a**, which serve as the light source, are oriented in an upward direction, the shaped of the intermediate wall **336** (first cavity **334a**) or the low-beam reflector **330a** should be designed to make the hypothetical straight line **L1** cross the front end **322b** of the low-beam reflector **300a**. With such a shape, when an observer sees the headlight **210A** from a vertical direction, the observer is prevented from seeing the low-beam LEDs **298a** by the intermediate wall **336** and the low-beam reflector **300a**, while direct light from the low-beam LEDs **298a** also is blocked by the intermediate wall **336** and the low-beam reflector **300a**.

Since the high-beam LEDs **298b** are housed in the second cavity **334b**, the high-beam LEDs **298b** are prevented from being seen by an observer when the observer sees the headlight **210A** from the front. An angle of a hypothetical straight line **L2**, which defines the visual perception prevention range for the high-beam LEDs **298b**, is determined by a front wall (distal-end wall **338**) of the second cavity **334b** in which the high-beam LEDs **298b** are disposed.

The high-beam LEDs **298b**, which serve as the light source, are oriented in a downward direction where the front wheel **214** (see FIG. **10**) is disposed. Therefore, the distal-end wall **338** may be set at an appropriate height, which makes the high-beam LEDs **298b** less likely to be seen. Thus, the observer is prevented from seeing the high-beam LEDs **298b** as well as direct light emitted from the high-beam LEDs **298b**.

The support member **330** according to the seventh embodiment is capable of easily transferring heat, which is generated when the low-beam LEDs **298a** or the high-beam LEDs **298b** emit light, to the second support base plate **310**, so that such heat can be radiated from the heat radiating fins **316** on the rear side of the second support base plate **310**.

FIG. **19** is a cross-sectional view, partially in side elevation, showing a modification of the first support base plate **332** shown in FIG. **18**. The headlight **210A** has a first support base plate **332a**, which is free of the cavities **334**, but has walls **340** that project in front of positions where the low-beam LEDs **298a** and the high-beam LEDs **298b** are disposed. The walls **340** conceal the low-beam LEDs **298a** and the high-beam

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LEDs **298b** from view, thereby preventing an observer from seeing the LEDs **298a**, **298b** as well as direct light from the LEDs **298a**, **298b**.

The present invention is not limited to the above embodiments, but may employ various arrangements without departing from the scope of the invention.

The invention claimed is:

1. A lighting device for a vehicle, comprising a base surrounded along an outer periphery thereof by a cover member of a vehicle body, a lens mounted on a front portion of the base and which is exposed through an opening defined in the cover member, and a light-emitting diode and a reflector, which are housed in a space defined by the base and the lens, wherein:
  - the light-emitting diode is disposed in a predetermined position on a support assembly, which is supported on the base and extends into the space; and
  - a wall is integrally formed with the support assembly and positioned forwardly of and in proximity to the predetermined position in which the light-emitting diode of the support assembly is disposed, the wall being disposed higher than the light-emitting diode, for limiting light that is emitted directly from the light-emitting diode.
2. The lighting device according to claim 1, wherein:
  - the support assembly includes a cavity that houses the light-emitting diode therein; and
  - the wall comprises a portion of an inner wall, which surrounds a peripheral side portion of the light-emitting diode in the cavity.
3. The lighting device according to claim 1, wherein:
  - the base supports the light-emitting diode together with the support assembly in a downwardly facing manner, the reflector being disposed in a position confronting the light-emitting diode; and
  - the wall being disposed at a height, such that a hypothetical straight line, which interconnects a center of the light-emitting diode and a tip end of the wall, passes through a front lower portion of the lens.
4. The lighting device according to claim 3, wherein the reflector is curved from an upper end toward a lower end thereof, the lower end crossing the hypothetical straight line.
5. The lighting device according to claim 1, wherein:
  - the support assembly comprises a board on which the light-emitting diode is mounted, and a board support that supports the board; and
  - the board support is made of a thermally conductive material, and is mounted on the base such that the board support supports the board on one surface thereof, and has another surface, which is opposite to the one surface, exposed through a mounting opening defined in the base.
6. A mounting structure for a lighting device for a vehicle, the lighting device comprising a base surrounded along an outer periphery thereof by a cover member of a vehicle body, a lens mounted on a front portion of the base and which is exposed through an opening defined in the cover member, and a light-emitting diode and a reflector, which are housed in a space defined by the base and the lens, wherein:

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the light-emitting diode is disposed in a predetermined position on a support assembly, which is supported on the base and extends into the space; and

the support assembly includes a wall positioned forwardly of and in proximity to the predetermined position in which the light-emitting diode is disposed, the wall being disposed higher than the light-emitting diode, for limiting light that is emitted directly from the light-emitting diode, and

wherein the cover member covers a portion of the lens, so as to conceal the light-emitting diode and the support assembly when the lighting device is viewed from the front.

7. The mounting structure for the lighting device according to claim 6, wherein the base is disposed within the cover member, such that a surface of the support assembly on which the light-emitting diode is disposed faces obliquely rearward.

8. The mounting structure for the lighting device according to claim 6, wherein the opening is shaped so as to be inclined obliquely upward in an outer transverse direction of the vehicle body; and

the base supports the reflector and the support assembly, so as to be inclined obliquely upward in the outer transverse direction of the vehicle body, and at an angle of inclination of an upper end of the opening.

9. A mounting structure for a lighting device for a vehicle, the lighting device comprising a base surrounded along an outer periphery thereof by a cover member of a vehicle body, a lens mounted on a front portion of the base and which is exposed through an opening defined in the cover member, and a light-emitting diode and a reflector, which are housed in a space defined by the base and the lens, wherein:

the light-emitting diode is disposed in a predetermined position on a support assembly, which is supported on the base and extends into the space; and

the support assembly includes a wall positioned forwardly of and in proximity to the predetermined position in which the light-emitting diode is disposed, the wall being disposed higher than the light-emitting diode, for limiting light that is emitted directly from the light-emitting diode, wherein:

the support assembly comprises a board on which the light-emitting diode is mounted, and a board support that supports the board; and

the board support is made of a thermally conductive material, and is mounted on the base such that the board support supports the board on one surface thereof, and has another surface, which is opposite to the one surface, exposed through a mounting opening defined in the base, and wherein:

heat radiating fins, which are exposed outside of the space, are disposed on the other surface of the board support; and

the cover member includes a duct defined therein for guiding ram air that flows toward the heat radiating fins.

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